

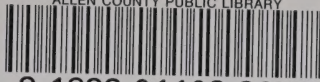
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Early Beadle County S.D.

1879 to 1900

By

MILDRED McEWEN JONES

In loving tribute to my pioneer parents,

CHARLES CARLTON

and

ETTA MASON McEWEN

and to all Pioneers

that their sons and daughters

may know the nobility which they inherit.

Since I was born in Beadle County and my parents were among the early settlers, it has been a pleasure to gather anecdotes from people and records. The heritage the early settlers have left does not need to be fictionalized to be made interesting. Their lives are full of humor and tragedy and reveal something of their sacrifice to make life pleasanter for those who have come later. In learning the aspirations of the first settlers, we feel a common bond of sympathy and understanding which helps us face the future with more patience and courage. I have gathered as much information as possible from old-timers while they still recall unusual experiences. Grateful acknowledgement is given for the use of early Huronite records found in the Huron library, and for poetry reprinted from "Pasque Petals." I wish to thank all who have helped and who have shared their memories and given me inspiration. Especially do I wish to thank Rosanne Knight Pierce for the invaluable assistance in the revision and typing of my manuscript, and Shirley Hughes Warren for designing the cover page.

My grandparents were among the first settlers in Hutchinson, Minnesota in 1857 and have given me information of that period which seems a typical prelude to Dakota settlement. In a McEwen family scrapbook is a detailed description of the shooting of the Indian chief, Little Crow, in the vicinity of Hutchinson during the outbreak of 1862. All of Hutchinson was burned with the exception of the stockade and one house, said to have been left for the chief.

The period from 1855 when my grandparents came from New York to Rock County, Wisconsin, to 1881, the year my parents settled in Dakota, was written in detail by my grandfather. He told of the hard years in the 1850's when money was worth only 50 per cent of its face value; of being so inspired by a song sung by the Hutchinson brothers that he undertook a seven-weeks' trip by covered wagon to reach the town that later was named for the famous singers. He spoke of their hair-breadth escape from the Indians when their home was burned while they were in the stockade; then the grasshopper seize in the 1870's after which my grandparents were forced to give up their cheese factory—the first to make American cheese west of Minneapolis—and over 1000 acres of land, although they were only \$2200 in debt. All this had much to do with the determination of my parents to push farther west and be among the first to break the lands of Dakota. In spite of their hard experiences, they always had a great faith in the land.

South Dakota residents are grateful to the Beadle County Historical Society whose members, in about 1930, under the leadership of Sherman Davis and Mr. and Mrs. John Walsh, collected family histories and photographs of early-timers. These records, arranged and filed by the Reverend Hubert Ketelle, provide some of the information for this book, which covers the years from 1879 to 1900.

MILDRED McEWEN JONES,
Huron, South Dakota
January, 1961.



Some of the 1931 members of the Beadle County Historical Society. Back row from left to right: John Sauer, Sr., Joe Rother, John Ebert, Mrs. John Melum, Mrs. J. K. Pease, Dr. E. W. Feige, Mrs. E. F. Wilson, Mrs. John Walsh, E. I. Bowe, Mrs. Claude Oviatt, Grace Jordan, Mrs. Sara Thompson, Mrs. C. S. Laughlin, John Walsh, E. H. Vance. Standing in front of cannon—left to right: Dr. Frieda Van Dalsem, W. S. Davis, Rev. H. Kettle, Sam Birks. Seated in front of cannon—left to right: Mrs. Elizabeth Miller Cool, Mrs. C. C. McEwen, W. A. Thompson, Rev. H. P. Carson, Mrs. Chas. Miner, Mrs. Mary Wilson, and B. E. Beach.

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CHAPTER I

Arrival of Settlers

Why do the prairies call me?
What are they trying to say?
Is it their challenge to freedom
That I feel I must obey?

The roots of our forefathers in Beadle County run deep. Descendants of over 800 pioneer families who put down those first roots are still here. They look back with pride to the beginnings of our county and state. Though the first soddies and shanties are nearly gone, a rich heritage lives on. The same sod is here. The seeds planted are alive and growing. The same glory of the bursting dawns reminds us of the pioneer's simple joy in living and making the best of circumstances. The meadowlark's songs, the wild flowers, the flaming sunsets—all have been here through the years and pull our heart strings back to old times and old faces—the faces of those who were lured by the call of free land and new adventure.

It is no wonder our ancestors were attracted by the newness of the country. By 1880 much of the land in eastern United States had been taken. People were out of work and restless. Transcontinental railroads were being built and everyone was talking about Dakota. My father, too, was impelled by the consuming ambition to try the unknown.

He had waited all that long, hard winter of 1880-1881 for the roads to be cleared so that he might take the train from Henderson, Minnesota, for the land of his dreams—Dakota! Only 250 miles but it seemed like the end of the earth. Roads had been blocked everywhere. Every newspaper discouraged him — settlers marooned in Sleepy Eye and other towns—cuts 60 feet deep filled, time after time, with the fury of blizzard after blizzard.

Finally he read that the train was to leave April 16. Snow had been thawing fast. He wondered whether the tracks would be washed out and whether it would take a long time to get to Dakota. He decided to take plenty of bread and cheese. He'd dry the bread so it wouldn't mold. He wouldn't starve.

As he got on the train, he felt relieved to think that his bride was not with him. It would be hard enough for his loved one to come after he had his house built. It wouldn't be easy to adjust herself to getting along without the comforts of life. Then, too, there would be few neighbors for awhile. He would probably have to walk long distances for supplies until he could earn money for some oxen. And such roads! He couldn't tell when he could even file

on land. "No place for Etta," he kept saying to himself as he rode along. "She'll come as soon as her school is out next fall. I'll have things ready by then." His mind wandered to the past as he rode along. He thought of his few years of schooling. He was lucky to go at all. Most farm boys went only a few months. He was 21—not too old. Perhaps he could go a few months more. Anyway, he was glad he had a teacher for a wife. She'd help him. He smiled as he thought of the other fellows calling him teacher's pet. Well, anyway he proved it by marrying her even if he did have to borrow money for the license. Now they were envying him both his wife and his trip.

Father noticed that there was a long line of empty flat cars leading the train. Then came the coach, pushed west by an engine which went as far as it could. At that point, the coach was uncoupled and left for a relay engine and its line of empties from the west to take it farther.

Water was everywhere—or slush, which was worse. Roads had to be inspected before the train could move. Washed out tracks made it necessary to have temporary tracks around new lakes. Every few hours father and the other men helped women off the coach and aided them to crawl onto one of the flat cars which the men pushed over the weak road bed.

The cars barely crept along. With other men who were eager to move on, father shoveled snow and repaired road beds. Drinking water had to be carried from town to town. There was no food except that brought from home or bought in a hurry at some town where the train stopped. The train was so crowded there was little chance to get anything. Father was thankful for his bread and cheese!

Father pitied the women on that train. There was Mrs. James Payne who, he found out later, was the first woman to come to Altoona Township, and Mrs. George Barrett, the first in Liberty Township; also several others—almost the firsts. Mrs. H. G. Eggleston told of taking the last house in Sleepy Eye as they waited all winter for a train. She felt lucky for others had to live in railroad cars almost buried in the deep snow. Father noticed one lady, Mrs. L. E. Bloodgood, carefully protected a basket every time she got off the car. When questioned about her treasure, she informed her friend, Mrs. Preston Vanderburg, that she had to have dandelions for a spring tonic and she hoped her roots would grow in Dakota.

Father was glad to get acquainted with others who were bound for Beadle County—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Titus who later were near neighbors; the Benjamin Abels, early in Pearl Creek Township, and James DuBois and his wife and baby, Roxy, then six months old. In 1880 James had walked the last 40 miles to file on land near Huron before returning to Minnesota for the winter. Father hoped he could be neighbors to some of these new friends. Preston Vanderburg's father, Captain John Vanderburg, had come the year before to take

up land. He showed father his telegram which read, "Roads clear. Come ahead." signed by his relative, S. S. Suits. Little did father know then that Vanderburg would name the township in which both were to live after his home town, Theresa, New York.

"When I left Dakota last fall, I had no neighbors for miles," James DuBois told father. "There is no house between mine and Wessington Hills. I have a partly sodded house and a sod stable about ten miles west of Huron. I had quite a time getting the poles for my house. I started for the Hills at three in the morning and didn't get back until after midnight. I put the poles upright and across the top and covered them with hay, then I put sod as far as the window. I hope this hard winter hasn't wrecked my good foundation."

Father learned later that DuBois was the first person in Dearborn Township. His son Lawrence wrote, "The neighbors wanted to name the township after father but he objected and said it should be named for the oldest man in the community."

Father was thankful to have plenty of milk to drink after he got acquainted with DuBois. The car where DuBois stored his food became separated from his other immigrant car, so he milked his cow and exchanged milk for father's bread and cheese.

Days passed into weeks as they crept along. Everyone became restless. Wheels—wheels—wheels—they lurched and screeched day and night. Father kept looking out at the endless prairies with a feeling of awe. Such promise of moisture. Such space for youth, full of energy and ambition. Such rich grass for cattle—the buffalo grass that is nutritious even in winter—the tall blue stem in the low places—but where was the wild life? There should be some left even though the winter had been terrible. He wondered whether deer would be as common on the prairies as in the woods of Minnesota. This brought to mind his brother Bowman who had shot a deer from the homestead doorway when he was only eight years old.

One fear kept haunting father—the fear of Indians. What if there should be a raid as there had been in Hutchinson when he was only four years old! He shivered as he thought of the days and nights he spent in the stockade there. The horror of his sister's death of diphtheria while on the way to the stockade—the terror of the long wait before they could go home—the memory of their cheese factory destroyed by the Indians—he had heard all the details so many times that he wondered how much he actually recalled and how much had been told him. One memory was real—his delight when his refugee mother brought his new baby brother, Clark, back from Wisconsin, and there was a grand reunion of the family. That and the report of his brother, Howard, shooting at the Indians from the hotel window were among his most vivid memories.

Father's mind ran ahead of the clicking wheels that were taking them tediously but surely to Dakota. He wondered what crops he could

raise. The soil looked rich and heavy. With moisture he should have trees—fruit trees, strawberries, vegetables—but the trees, where were they? How barren the country looked without trees—and there were wide stretches of burned land—prairie fires, no doubt. How weird the white, bleached bones of antelope and buffalo on the black velvet carpet!

The wheels moved on and on—on and on—into an endless space of nothingness—only a few strange shacks dotted the landscape. How lonesome it looked! His mother thought him rash to go to a strange country. Mothers are that way, but his father understood. He knew his son felt crowded. He knew what it meant to be independent. He knew what faith it took. He wanted his son to have a chance to prove himself. The sunsets always took father back to his former home with its luscious crops, its heavy timber and its wild game, his old friends and most of all, his family. He wondered, would he feel alone and lost on the prairies?

Father had studied his map and knew it by heart. The towns in Dakota! Volga, De Smet, Iroquois, Cavour. DuBois and Vanderburg had told him of the new towns, the clustered tents, and the little shacks. As the train reached town after town, father's excitement increased. It couldn't be long before the conductor would be saying, "Huron," and he would step off the train and see his dream town.

It had taken them 19 days to reach Volga. Time dragged worse than ever. Father hoped he could see a little of De Smet before he went to sleep on May 6th. It was too dark. No more bad roads, and they should be in Huron the next day! He could hardly sleep.

There must be more trouble. He couldn't hear the grinding wheels! Stopped again! Well, he'd get a nap and maybe they'd be in Cavour by the time he awoke—or was he there?—yes, daylight, and the conductor called, "Cavour." But again a stop—more shoveling—more inspection of weak road bed. There had been snow the day before.

He must have dozed again. When he awoke, the train had arrived. It was May 7th—just three weeks since he had started. Crowds were stampeding the train—the first to come into Huron since early in January. Everyone in town and country had been waiting. Now they were yelling and welcoming the newcomers as though they were their best friends. Father noticed the muddy streets—the few straggling shacks—the bustling land men telling them where to get food, and the smiling livery men making arrangements to take settlers to Mitchell to file. What excitement! Everyone was eager to file on land and start building. That was all one could hear.

Father had his first meal at the Corbin House, later called the Windsor House. "How did Huron fare this winter?" he inquired of the owner, L. J. Corbin.

"You should have seen the railroad men who have been shovelling snow all winter with little pay!" Corbin replied. "The pay car came

in yesterday—pulled over weak places by ropes. Were they excited!—almost a stampede.”

“But the rest of you, how did you get supplies?” asked father.

“That’s a long story—by walking to Mitchell or De Smet. Hand sleds certainly have come in handy, but the trouble was, with no trains the stores, too, have run out of supplies and have had to limit food to only a few pounds of sugar and flour to each customer. The road is open to Mitchell where you will need to file.”

Arrangements soon were made at the livery stable for Frank Dinneen to take father and the other new settlers to Mitchell to file on their land. Each was hoping to get land near Huron.

Father was too excited to sleep. Dinneen’s drivers were to take three loads of men, crowded into spring wagons, to Mitchell. He hoped Frank would start as early as he had promised for fifty miles would be a long, hard trip and one could expect bad roads.

Corbin called father at four and they were on their way. Frank gave them some advice. “There’ll be a long line waiting tomorrow. You better get up early and stand in line a few hours. It will pay you, for good land close to town is hard to find. Look out for land sharks. They are ready to give advice but some of it proves expensive!”

The horses jogged along—sometimes it was all they could do to wade the low places. Father thought they would never get there. He still had a little bread and cheese which he nibbled on now and then. Frank entertained them by telling of the fifty-mile races to Mitchell when trying to get ahead of others who wished to file. He knew all the short cuts and had good horses used to the dangerous road. They could get through if any horses could. It was pitch dark when they reached the little town. Frank knew the good places to sleep. There was a hay loft reserved for his men, and with extra horse blankets over them, they soon were sound asleep. Frank had offered to rouse them at two o’clock so they could be first in line.

Main street was crowded with buggies, wagons, hay racks, and all sorts of spring wagons. Every telegraph pole had a team tied to it. Some men had unhitched their horses, tied them to the wagon wheels, and were curled up asleep in their wagon boxes.

Luckily, father was first in line. By the time the land office opened at nine o’clock, the line behind him extended for blocks.

Father discovered that land five miles west of Huron and only a mile west of the James Valley Junction, then called Ordway Junction, had not been taken. A station agent and a town were expected to develop there soon as a track was to be laid from there to Redfield that year. He felt fortunate to get land that close to Huron.

The next day, father was back in Huron, eager to have a chance to see his land. A land locator, John McWhorter, gave him some good



McEwen Family (1893). My father, C. C. McEwen; Mildred (Mrs. T. W. Jones), Meroe (Mrs. George Morrissey), Belva (Mrs. Frank Cass), and Mrs. C. C. McEwen.

advice. "You better borrow or rent a plow and some oxen and get your sod barn made. Then you'll have a place to stay until you can get your house built. You can figure wages for plowing at about \$4 an acre which is a day's work. Wagons cost around \$75. A 12 by 16 shack with panel door and two full windows will clean your pockets of another \$70."

Father was interested in McWhorter's method of locating land. His 12-year-old son, Alonzo, counted the revolutions of the wagon wheel by means of a red cloth tied to it. Then the father used this count to determine the corner of each quarter. At the end of each mile, surveyors made a mound of dirt around which were four pits in a square. At the end of each half mile was a mound with two pits. If the section extended east and west, one pit was west of the other; if north and south, one pit north of the other. McWhorter said he had located land for a man named Miller who hoped to have a town on his land.

The neighbors were glad to have a chance to share what tools they had and to lend father a helping hand. He boarded at Montgomery's until he could get his sod barn built. With borrowed oxen and plow, he soon finished it. By that time father had bought his own oxen and a wagon and was ready to haul lumber for his shanty.

In a letter to mother written June 19, 1881, he described his experiences as follows:

Dear Wife,

Sunday has come again and have had no letter from you this week. Montgomery and wife came up last night. They brought my bread and a letter from father. It was dark when we got home and Montgomery took the oxen to go over to his shanty about three-fourths of a mile. I did not think of their getting lost. Dewey came up on the train to stay with me. We stayed up quite a while then went to bed. We heard some one "Hello" and found it was Montgomerys. They had been wandering around about two or three hours. We laughed at them and told them we could find their shanty and we all started out on foot. We were sure we were going straight to it. We got lost, too, and didn't find my shanty until about one o'clock. We made up our minds we better stay all night.

I have got along first-rate this week. I've not been so lonesome. I'm getting used to being alone but not so used to it that I don't want you with me, my darling, but I know it would not be best for you to come until school is out.

I've got ten acres broken and am going to break for Dewey next week. My corn and potatoes look nice. We have had lots of rain and high winds.

I eat more in a day now than I did in a week when I first came. I was not sick but did not feel hungry. I am getting to be a boss cook. I expect you will be ashamed to cook and will want to do the outside work and let me cook. I made bread once. I wasn't hungry for bread then and gave it to the oxen. It was good bread for they ate it right down.

I suppose you would like to know how big my shanty is. It is eight by nineteen and three stories high. The kitchen, dining room, and parlor are on the first floor, my bedroom on the second, and my clothes press on the third, so you see I have quite a shanty.

Only six weeks and I will have you here, my dear, to share it with me. It seems a long while. How much comfort we will take when you get here. Be careful and not get sick. You don't know how many times I think of you and how I wish you were here but I think it is all for the best. We have a long road ahead. I must say goodbye now.

CARLIE.

Father had a sense of humor. Actually, he slept on a shelf and had another shelf for his clothes—thus the three stories. He made his own table and used boxes for chairs. Later, he and mother built on another room.

Mother arrived in Huron in the late summer of 1881. It wasn't long before my parents heard the accounts of the first settling of Beadle County and the trials of the hard winter of 1880 and 1881.

Only a few had come in 1879—Jacob Kouf, a trapper, who had a dugout in Valley Township and who made \$1478 trapping up the river—mostly muskrats, he told father.

Charley Miner was the first to file on land in Beadle County in April, 1879. His father, Captain Nelson Miner, was at the head of Company A which defended southern Dakota during the Indian outbreak of 1862. It was Captain Miner's soldiers who built the first permanent school house in Dakota near Vermillion. They built the school of logs furnished by the Peter Jordans whose daughter later married Charley Miner.

In the Beadle County files is a picture of this school and a replica of it is on the state university grounds.

On May 26 of 1879 the Baum brothers, Ed and Martin, came and were among the first to live continuously on their claim. Dr. E. C. Walton who came June 1, 1879, and moved to Custer Township in April, 1880, was the second to make improvements according to some newspaper records. About the same time, Nelson Suckow, a carpenter and stone mason, helped John Cain build his shack near the James River. That was the first shanty in Huron.

Joseph Delvaux told father that when he came with oxen in 1879, he left his sacks of flour under the depot platform in Volga. When he went to get them, someone had taken them. Others who came in 1879 include Andrew Sweetzer and son, P. Sweeney, and the Nielson brothers.

"There wasn't much here when I came in the spring of 1880," said Charles Lampe. "I asked where Huron was and a fellow said, 'Right here, this is the main street.' Here I had arrived and didn't know it! I came from Mitchell and had trouble getting across Pearl Creek—had to leave part of the stock for my store on the other side."

Lampe had quite a time protecting his store building while moving it. During the process, it stood in the center of the street several nights. He heard strange noises as of burglars. At first he crawled under the counter, then decided to shoot his gun out the door.

"I at least let them know I was at home," Lampe went on. "Didn't hear any more sounds. Must have scared them. Everyone has to protect himself until we get rid of these outlaws. Better have your women keep their guns loaded."

Evidently the women did, for Mrs. Alva Taylor said she always kept the gun behind the door, ready for use. Not only outlaws but Indians were a terror to the settlers. The Indians who came through the county never stopped to knock. "They begged for things that took their fancy and one didn't stop to argue with them," said Mrs. Ed Wilson whose parents, the William Thompsons, were early settlers in Grant Township.

Getting across the streams was difficult and taxed the ingenuity of the settlers. There were few places in the river and creeks shallow enough to get through and one never knew just when the floods might come as they had in the previous winter.

Charley Miner laughed about his first meal with Bill Briggs,

"I saw him across the creek and motioned for him to come over. Since we had no audience, he swam across in his birthday suit and we had a good meal together before he swam back to his clothes and shanty."

Early in 1880, the trains stopped on the east side of the river and J. H. Alexander ferried passengers across on a flat boat. John Sauer spoke of paying 10c to walk across a bridge and John McWhorter, 50c to cross with his team.

"I surely had a time getting my lumber across the river," Maurice Dinneen told father. "I had to haul it from Volga for the Dakota House. My team wouldn't cross with the lumber so I had to unhitch them and tie a rope to the load of lumber. Then I swam across, followed by my team. After that I tied my rope to the whippletrees and drove my horses ahead until the lumber was over the river."

Father and mother often chatted with other settlers whom they met at the hotels, livery stables, and stores which were centers of information. The Riverside Hotel, 14x20, first owned by Van Branken and Strahorn, and later by M. F. Wright, had been moved from McCook County. The Jim River House, first owned by Mudgett, Loveland, and Fairbanks, became part of the hotel of M. J. Dinneen who had charge of it for many years.

On a stove in the yard, Mrs. John McDonnell cooked for 40 carpenters who built their hotel. Mrs. William Stahly, her daughter, still has the dinner bell she used. Their family was the first to bring children to Huron.

Father was amazed at the progress that had been made in such a short time. "Rag town," as Huron was called because of the number of tents, soon became a more dignified settlement. As soon as the railroad was built, the tents were replaced with shacks.

Nellie Carter, who had a claim near us, laughed about her trip here June 26, 1880, on the third train that came in. "Father had come before and helped to build the bridge. Our train had benches along the sides and was lighted by a lantern. When we arrived, father brought a chair for mother and me to step on when getting off the train and a wheelbarrow to carry our trunk to the Wright House where we stayed several weeks. I'll never forget the first night. The partitions were made of brown paper tacked to the studdings. Sol Roberts, in the next room, had a nightmare in the night and kicked a hole through the wall and frightened mother nearly to death."

My mother used to enjoy visiting with Mrs. William Titus whose children, Cora and Walter, had stayed during the hard winter. To get supplies, they went to the James Valley Junction with their homemade sled, then up the track for four miles, the horse stepping from one tie to another.

Saloons came as soon as the town was settled, the first liquor

being carried in covered wagons which were stationed near the river. Later, Mosier, Robinson, and Rowe built shacks.

Other people who came early were W. B. Ingersoll, the first lawyer, who had ferried over the "Jim" on a raft and lived in a covered wagon; Terry and Clark who had the first livery stable, which they later sold to Fred Holton; Dr. George Moody whose home now is used as the Huron Y.W.C.A.; Laird Norton who used a team to bring lumber from De Smet for his lumber yard; C. C. Hills who came December 23, 1880, and opened the first bank in town; and J. W. Campbell who owned the first bank made of brick.

David Bell, one of the first sheriffs, was busy trying to protect the settlers' rights. The warrants listed October 6, 1880, show six men receiving sheriff fees. Among them were Dr. O. M. Farrington, F. F. B. Coffin, and John McDonald. C. H. Hudson is listed January 3, 1881, and David Bell, April 4th of that year, continuing through 1882. A. McRostie, listed in 1883, was sheriff for several years.

There was much talk about the first Fourth of July celebration in 1880 at which there were 35 men, three women, and three dogs. No program had been planned but they called on Martin Baum who told how glad he was to have other settlers coming. He had lived with his little boy in a dug-out all winter. His speech is printed in the July 3, 1899, Huronite.

"When I came," said John Cain, "I was about the only one here. On May 1, 1880, I moved my 12x16 shack from the river bank to First and Dakota where the town was first surveyed the last day of April. Dr. O. M. Farrington and I helped in the ceremony when they drove the first stake. To determine the corner of the M. F. Wright Hotel, we measured 50 feet west of a point 330 feet south of a certain stake driven on the line between Ranges 61 and 62. Two antelope stood and watched us, then galloped away. The main street was to be 100 feet wide, the others 80, and the alleys, 20. Maurice Dinneen and John Powers plowed a furrow down Dakota Avenue to mark the street." So Huron, Dakota, was born!

Several people told my parents how anxiously the settlers had watched the building of the railroad and the big bridge across the Jim River—it was the longest bridge in the Territory, a half-mile long and 30 feet above the water. Now the settlers would not have to haul their supplies such long distances.

Fayant and May had a butcher shop, the first one in Huron. Charley May, father of several families still living in Beadle County in 1961, cooked for the railroad men who laid the track. It had taken from April 7 to June 25 to lay the road from Volga to Huron.

"We surely missed doctors," May said. "We had some kind of fever that turned my hair white in no time. We had a doctor once a week, but all he prescribed was wine and beef tea.

"The diet in our cook car was mostly salt pork and pancakes

—no wonder we were sick! I paid 3c a pound for flour, 9c for salt pork and 8c for sugar. An inventory July 8, showed \$106.88 with expenses \$63, giving me \$43.88 for my work. I had to furnish the stove and cooking utensils.

"I had to buy my own food on the boat coming from England—my fare was only \$13.10. It was a change coming here. My wife never had roughed it, and making underwear of flour sacks to try to keep warm—climbing a ladder to change the pipe elbow on top of the house whenever the wind changed—going without meat when we lived on the claim, unless we had a chance to butcher for a neighbor and he would give us a piece—all of it was hard. When I had my butcher shop, I got a little antelope from straggling Indians and sometimes a little dried buffalo meat. I got 4c a pound for most meat."

Charley Bonesteel left a more detailed record of the railroad crews. In the summer and fall of 1879, there were 25 men at Iroquois, 15 or more teams three miles west and about 20 teams three or four miles still farther west. The next camp was at Cavour with about 15 teams. The only camp west of that was just east of the Jim River. The railroad had been graded as far as Volga in the fall of 1879. West of there it had been partly graded.

The headquarters were east of De Smet where Dan McIntire had a contract to furnish the crews with beef. Bonesteel made two trips a week to the camps. On his trip to buy six head of cattle from Baum, he saw no other home but the Miner's. Most of the herds of antelope were small, but on October 25, he saw a herd of several hundred. He sold the beef for 7c a pound or, on the hoof, for 4c. The summer was dry, he said, and wood was very scarce. What little wood they found came from near Lake Byron.

Others who worked on railroad gangs and who still have relatives in the county include James Dixon, in charge of the crews; James Foasberg, James Doyle and his son Will, Peter Olson, Albert Shaw, John Hanley, Mike Costello, John Lally, Irad Parkhurst, David Hollingsworth, Dave Coursey, Bill Taylor, and T. V. Wallace.

The mother of Charley Doyle cooked for about 50 men who laid the Milwaukee Railroad near Virgil, and Mrs. James Payne cooked for those who worked near Hitchcock.

There had been great excitement when the first train came in. Everyone who could possibly get there had gone down to the bridge to meet it. After what seemed days, it arrived on the other side, then stopped. An hour passed! Another hour! Then two hours! They had heard the superintendent of construction say that he thought he should do a little more work on the bridge, but they were not prepared for the long wait.

Finally, the train started moving cautiously—first, five flatcars loaded with iron to test the bridge. Then came five box cars loaded with men who yelled for all they were worth as soon as they were

across. They said they had been holding their breath all the way over.

There had been a free excursion from Volga and points this side. The excursionists were mostly male, for the women stayed to guard their homes from Indians and coyotes. Dick Rowland was the conductor on that train Number Two.

After their long ride, all were hungry and thirsty. Since there was no water fit to drink, many stood in line waiting for beer. There weren't enough glasses in town to serve 50 men at once, so Mose Wright had plenty of time to sweep away shavings and prepare tables for dinner guests. Later, the proud citizens presented a small fortune of \$8 to the engineer, Joe Shears, and the fireman, Jack Nolan, who admitted they were "broke."



Ed Baum, father of Albert Baum who was the first child born in Beadle County and who now lives on the home place in Clifton Township.

CHAPTER 2

A Winter To Be Remembered

What plans for future growth were started then
With little but the toil of eager hands!
What debt we owe to those far-seeing men
Who gave their all to open up new lands!

Experiences of that first year in Dakota were enough to drive the timid back east to their old homes. Father and mother wondered what the next winter would bring. They hurried to get plenty of fuel and to make their house as warm as possible. Father plowed some extra furrows to get sod to bank up the house and bought some tar paper to keep out the wind and snow. He had heard that the winter before snow had sifted into every crack. They could hardly believe some of the stories the settlers told of that first winter.

After the railroad had reached Huron, the settlers farther west were eager to have the railroad finished so that they could more easily obtain fuel and other supplies for the winter. The last bridge and rail were to have been finished by October 16, 1880. A big celebration at Pierre was planned to observe the completion. All Dakota seethed with excitement. Alas! The celebration suddenly was snowed in when, on October 15, a severe blizzard sent everyone under any cover to be found. The settlers were not prepared for the hard winter. Plowing had to be done to prove up. Houses had to be built. Wells had to be dug. Too much had to be finished at once.

Most of the 11 feet of October snow remained. There was hardly a week when trains made schedule time. Mail which had to be carried on horseback came but two or three times a month. Animals, wild and tame, froze by the thousands. The snow packed down and more kept coming. Two blizzards a week were reported after the first part of January. Starting on February 2, there arrived a snowstorm which lasted nine days. One cut was 65 feet deep and many more were from 20 to 50. Telegraph poles had to be extended several feet to keep the wires above the snow. Remembering this, in the summer of 1881, settlers painted the tops of poles so that travelers could find their way in other blizzards.

It was a good thing that S. W. Van Dusen had bought a carload of flour in the fall of 1880, for supplies became very scarce the following winter. A relief committee canvassed Huron for food and fuel and limited the sale of flour and sugar at regular intervals. One farmer was not allowed to buy groceries for another. Mrs. J. J. Robins who lived in Clifton Township said they were out of butter for six months. Ole Anderson, who had helped to lay the railroad, had to

bring groceries on a hand sled from Cavour. Leslie Harvey spoke of their family living on prunes and bread which they carried from Mitchell on a hand sled. H. J. Rice brought a sack of flour from De Smet the same way.

Charley Miner told of being about out of food. He made some snowshoes of willow branches, gunny sacks, and clothesline and walked 12 miles to Huron. He had to make the return trip with but one pound of sugar and one and a half pounds of flour. One hotel, whose rates were \$7 a week, was reduced to serving guests black-strap molasses and bread, and people were glad to get that much. When Huron stores were completely exhausted, John McDonnell sold the Charley Green family some rice from the hotel's own depleted larder. One was lucky to have any food!

"It was a long, hard winter," said Fred F. B. Coffin, father of Mrs. Nelson Miner. "I think burying the 18 dead friends in the snow north of town was one of the worst experiences."

There were many hardships that winter. There was little kerosene; the supply of tallow ran so low that families had to sit during the long winter evenings with only the glow of the hay fire for light. Mothers took the lid off the stove and amused the children with stories of better days. Huron was more fortunate than some places because of the stored railroad ties and coal which were issued without cost to the settlers. This, too, became scarce and the settlers were warned to use as little as possible. They had to have an order from an official to get the fuel.

Snowplows kept moving day and night that winter. Thousands of men in the Middle West were hired to shovel snow, but after the road was cleared in the daytime, it would be covered again at night. Snow shovellers went ahead of the plows, scooping snow long hours by hand. Six or seven ranks of men with shovels, one above the other on the slope, would try to throw the snow away from the track so that it would not be blown back. Their efforts proved vain, and they continued to live in a white world. The settlers kept shovels in their homes to dig a passage out. Sometimes they had to first shovel the snow inside in order to make room for a passage outside. They had to dig tunnels to their barns. At one point, those entering or leaving Huron had to pass through a public tunnel.

Bernard Teuber, whose nephews and nieces still live in Huron, told of being one of 54 men who were sent on foot from Pierre to Huron hauling a stone boat loaded with food and mail. Only 16 arrived and made the return journey. He told of a later experience while he was trying to keep dry while sleeping. The men sought shelter in box cars on sidings. Turning their shovels over the water-covered floor, they stood on the shovels and leaned against the wall. Not much sleep but at least they were dry! In March Mr. Teuber walked from Huron to Pierre to carry mail.

On March 1st, 100 men were sent from Huron to Pierre. When

half-way there, their provisions ran out and they were limited to a biscuit a day. When finally rescued, some had frozen arms or legs which had to be amputated.

"We were lucky near Huron," a fellow said. "West of here they had to burn corn and felt lucky if they didn't have to burn their furniture or wagons."

Perhaps one of the most exciting incidents was told by Frank Dinneen and Levi Hulbert. The Dinneens kept approximately 20 horses and sent two or three teams back and forth to Mitchell in summer when the weather was good. They carried from four to eight people in a buggy or spring wagon. Toward the end of the winter, although they were badly in need of flour, sugar, and meat for their hotel, they didn't want to risk a trip.

A friend of Hulbert, A. J. Munion, had frozen to death near Wessington while trying to care for his stock in a blizzard on January 26. His brother had come to take the body back to Cold Water, Michigan. The weather was so bad that Hulbert and Munion's brother could not start for Huron until April. When they did start, a blizzard forced them to walk in order to distinguish the telegraph poles as guide posts. After a two-day trip, the brother learned that he could take a train at Mitchell to go east. He asked Frank Dinneen how much he would charge to take him to Mitchell.

"One hundred dollars," Dinneen replied. Hulbert had to sign a note to pay for the journey. Part way to Mitchell, the men stayed overnight at the M. V. Robins' home.

Before leaving Mitchell, Dinneen purchased the much needed groceries and then started for Huron. He hadn't gone far when a blizzard blinded him so that he couldn't see the road. He wound the lines around the dashboard and crawled under the robe, letting the horses find their own way. The horses went on; Dinneen had no idea where! But he dreaded to have the horses stop. He decided that if they should, he would unhitch them and let them try to save their lives. Realizing that horses sense a driver's emotions, he often uncovered his head and yelled "Yip" which they knew meant that they must do their best. Hours passed. Suddenly they stopped. On getting out, Dinneen found himself in front of a barn, eight miles north of Forestburg. What a relief!

"I stayed the rest of the night," he said, "and started out early the next morning. Before long, the weather turned unexpectedly warm and the snow melted so fast that I had to partly unload and reload a dozen times to avoid tipping over. The horses, exhausted from their continued labors, just crept along. It had taken us from four in the afternoon until 11 at night to get from Cain Creek to a mile from Huron. The horses refused to go any farther. I unhitched them, and they followed me to town. The slush was so deep I thought I'd never make it! Without permission, I borrowed John Powers' team and

went after my load at 3 a.m. Money couldn't have bought my faithful horses!"

At the Grant Township picnic in 1894, Maud Harvey, later Mrs. Alec Urquhart, gave a good description of that first fall and winter. Several families had arrived in late summer of 1880 and had built the E. H. Grant home. Twenty-one people stayed in the Grant's six-room house during the October blizzard and for about three weeks longer until two more houses could be built. The only bed was occupied by the oldest couple, Mr. and Mrs. John Baldwin. The others slept on the floor on piles of hay. They had only one small cook stove and each took his turn getting warm, then exercised as best he could to keep from freezing. Large hungry wolves came to the door and the coyotes howled every night.

Mrs. J. J. Robins wrote that after their house was built, a party of 13 stayed during a blizzard, February 12, 1881. Among them were the sheriff and a hand-cuffed horse thief. The first night, the sheriff sat by the fire all night with his prisoner. The next day the group tried to resume its journey but were forced to return. Mrs. Robins said they were afraid of running out of food, but, fortunately, they had a barrel of crackers. On the first night of the blizzard A. H. Risdon made it clear he expected the best bed. The second night, they missed the prisoner. After a search they found him asleep in the choice bed.

The animals as well as the people were crowded. Mrs. Robins said the horses were stabled so close together that there wasn't room for a straw between them.

A diary kept by E. H. Grant reported that the snow thawed a little from March 21 to March 31, 1881, after which there was one of the worst blizzards of that stormy winter. The Grants had to dig their way to the stables. On the 15th and 16th of April, it thawed both days. Grant started to Huron on a mule. What a trip! The snow crust broke through, sending him into the drifts so many times that he decided to let the mule go home. Bewailing his bruises and torn lip which oozed blood, he walked the rest of the way to Huron. He went to every store trying to find a shirt. None left! He then sought a square meal at the Wright House, run by Ed Sterling. Hearing a noise in the dining room, he asked if dinner was being prepared.

"No," said Sterling, "but we rattle the dishes three times a day just as though we were going to have a full-sized meal—the sound is cheerful."

On his way home, Grant tried a short cut and came to a ravine 30 feet deep in the middle with a fairly thick crust on top. Sure that he would break through it if he walked upright, he sat down and, child-fashion, hitched himself along until he reached the middle. There, he stretched himself full-length and rolled over and over until he reached the other side.

It was reported the snowstorms did not end until May 5th. The

snow had been going fast. The Jim River rose 23 feet, and low places became wild torrents. There was an ice gorge 90 feet deep at the mouth of the Jim. The ice in the rivers did not break up before the waters from the snow rushed in on top of the ice. There was panic everywhere. Great chunks of ice tumbled pell-mell, rolling against the bridges. Rocks and trees were torn from their places and hurled away as though they were feathers. Timbers were ripped from their anchors. Parts of bridges floated away.

Charley Miner told of his experiences that spring. One hundred and twenty-four people were marooned for 19 days on the second floor of a grain elevator and a few other buildings at Meckling, near Vermillion.

"I was called to Yankton," Miner said, "to be a witness at a trial. At Forestburg I bought a hand sled for 75c and made a harness, using gunny sacks for a collar and back bands, ropes for tugs, and clothesline for lines. When I reached there I found the court postponed on account of the floods. I learned my sister, Mrs. Jim Hyde, was one of those marooned at the top of the elevator, which was surrounded by huge cakes of ice. Several boats had been wrecked in rescue efforts. Finally I found a yawl and with six other men,



Captain Nelson Miner's Company A defended Yankton, Vermillion, and Sioux Falls at the time of the Indian outbreak in 1863 and he is well known in Dakota history. He came to Vermillion with his family in 1860 and laid out the town. Miner County was named for him and Hyde County for his brother-in-law.

dodged the ice blocks. When we got to the stranded ones, they were faint with hunger, for they had had little to eat but the wheat in the elevator.

"All this time I was worrying about my wife. Our home is in a low place at the side of a hill. I could hardly wait to get home, but the water became worse and worse. I had to hold my bundle of clothes over my head with one hand and the reins with the other while my pony swam the streams—and there were many of them!

"When I finally did reach home, I found my wife also had endured a tough time. She kept the starving calves alive by making tea of the hay in her bed tick. When water started to come into the house, she hitched the horse onto the table which she had tipped upside down and hauled our most valuable things up to the top of the hill where she stayed until our neighbors, the Bishops, found an old boat abandoned, we think, by the Indians. Since a hole had been burned out in one side, my wife was afraid to ride in it at first, but finally ventured a few trips to the Bishop's. She was more worried about me than herself since rumors had come that I had been drowned."

Thus ended the winter that historians say was unprecedented and has never been succeeded in severity.

CHAPTER 3

Building Homes

The strength of sod was planted in their hearts;
The breadth of prairies rested on their souls.
They had the faith of birds that build in storms
And anchor nests upon the strongest boughs.

To prove up his claim, one paid \$14 when filing, then had to live on the claim for five years and pay \$4 more for final proof. One could prove up in six months by paying \$1.25 an acre. The government required five acres of breaking the first year. Improvements such as a house and a well were to be made in six months, but that time was extended in 1881 because of the hard winter.

Ten acres of trees were to be put on tree claims with at least 2700 trees to the acre. An advertisement in an 1884 Huronite speaks of 27,000 trees and germs for \$50; planted, \$100. These trees were to be cultivated for eight years. At the end of that time, 675 living trees to the acre were required to prove up. The first year settlers were to break five acres; the second year, five acres more and cultivate the first five acres. The fourth year, they were to plant the second five acres to trees and cultivate the first. Thereafter, all were to be kept clean and cultivated. Requirements were so high that some had to change their tree claims to homesteads. Amos Radcliffe was one. Not many tree claims have the original trees. One in Nance Township—that of William Henry Daugherty—and another in Iowa Township belonging to George Deeg, still have trees started in 1882. The government paid a bounty of \$10 per annum for the cultivation of trees for 10 years.

A person not owning 320 acres could pre-empt 160 acres by plowing a certain amount of land and digging a well. Instead of living on his place six months and paying \$1.25 an acre, he could prove up by living on the land 30 months without the fee. Many thought the pre-emption laws encouraged speculators and that the six months should be extended to two years.

The law stated that an owner should not be off his claim for more than 30 days at one time during the first six months. If he were, he had to forfeit his claim. He could, however, be away to earn a living or go to school. Some worked in Huron and stayed on their claims week-ends as did John Cogswell who walked to his claim near Wolsey every week-end. Mrs. John Melum tells of her mother, Mrs. John Gunderson, holding down a claim in Clyde Township and walking five miles each week-end to be with her family in Huron.

In the Beadle County files is a January, 1882, Chicago & North

Western timetable on the outside of which is printed a somewhat more lenient promise to the settlers. It stated, "One can't be off the claim for more than six months at any time for five years . . .," instead of thirty days during the first six months. Another statement of interest is, "If prevented by good cause from visiting the land office, an affidavit may be made before the clerk of courts for the county in which one has land. A statement with \$10 is forwarded to the registrar." Soldiers deducted time in service from the required time.

Much of the land had been taken up by 1883. Land sharks were constantly watching for a chance to jump a claim. Some settlers pretended to be on their claims by leaving a washing out. Ella Lawrence wrote of someone making trouble for them just as they were changing from a sod house to a frame house. Some settlers lacked ready cash for improvements or were too busy plowing to tend to building. John and Will McCoy, who had the first frame house in Custer Township, built their house so that it would be on the land of both. There was many a race to get a house built before land was contested or to get to a land office in time.

"My grandmother," said Albert Blume, "thought she would take up a tree claim near Wolsey. My grandparents built a shack and when she went to live on it, she found some man also had built a shack there. He threatened to shoot her if she didn't get off. He had a rifle and she had a shotgun. When he found he couldn't scare her, they decided to find out more about the land. It proved to be a school section so both had to move their shacks!"

The most tragic dispute over land was between Mrs. Flora Shaw and Simon Nielson. Both claimed the same land in Valley Township. This land was first illegally claimed by John Cameron. After several years of litigation, the court awarded Mrs. Shaw the land. Both she and Nielson had built shanties on it. Nielson threatened that he would shoot anyone who started plowing. On June 4, 1887, Mrs. Shaw, with some of her relatives and a friend, went onto the land, planning to work it. Enraged, Nielson came and shot Mrs. Shaw, her son Corwin, her sister, Alice Lyman, and a friend of theirs, George Kelsey. He then went home and shot himself.

A neighbor, Arthur Burger, reports, "The rock where Nielson rested his gun is still there. My uncle sat up with the bodies. In the night, a tub started to move. At first afraid that Nielson's ghost was under it, he finally summoned nerve enough to tip the tub up. Out walked a cat!"

Settlers swarmed into the country as soon as the railroad came. Fred F. B. Coffin gave some interesting details about the first settlers. After coming May 20, 1880, he built the first house in Huron which stood east of the corner of Dakota Avenue and Second Street.

"I was lucky to get some carpenter tools from a fellow who drove from Mitchell," he said. "He had a wagon load of hardware and spread some out on the ground and I chose a hammer, a square,

and a saw. I helped tear down a railroad building for \$2.50 a day and paid \$25 a thousand for the lumber to build my house. I figure I saved \$2 a week by cooking my own meals. Hotels charge \$3.50 a week. My oil costs 1c a day.

"People came in faster than they could build houses. In April, 1880, there were 25 settlers. By June there were 500. Since the railroad company wanted the cars emptied at once, settlers had to build their floors, then protect their furniture as best they could."

Seven hundred settlers arrived on one train of ten coaches. There was not even standing room. Many came from curiosity to see the new country, then went back to think about moving. All who had homes shared their sleeping space, even to counters in stores. Dr. Hugh Russell shared a carpenter's bench with six other men for several weeks. Many who had beds didn't have a chance to sleep in them for months because they had so many guests.

E. T. Cressey, father of Mrs. C. S. Laughlin, reported in an 1883 Daily Leader that five minutes after the eastern train came in, 1000 people could be seen within two blocks of the depot. In April, 250 loads of goods were unloaded in Huron. The Huron Tribune estimated the population of the territory increased at the rate of 1000 a day. Immigrants spent seven or eight days in boxcars with livestock and household goods with scarcely room to sleep.

"Five of us slept on the floor in Small's Photo Gallery—no beds for love or money," said Rev. J. B. Pomeroy who came in 1881.

Between four and five million pounds of freight came in August, 1882, an increase of between three and four million pounds over August, 1881.

Hotels were crowded with people from all over the world. An item in The Huron Tribune, October 20, 1881, reported that the register for the past week showed guests from 18 different states and England, Ireland, Germany, Scotland, Turkey, Iceland, China and Africa. Perhaps the hotels made the most money in the county those first years. M. F. Wright, for instance, made a record of \$75,000 the first three years. Evidently the Kent House was doing a large business, too, for 20 girls came at one time to wait tables. Wm. Miner reported that by furnishing one's own blanket and paying 50c, one could occupy half a bed covered with a straw tick. John Lyons reported that 21 beds in Parker Hall were not allowed to get cold.

Belle Remster, who arrived in April, 1882, recalls that the older people had to sit up all night at the Dakota House where she and the other children, covered with traveling men's overcoats, slept on the parlor floor. One man startled her by taking a revolver from his pocket.

"We had our halls covered with straw for sleeping purposes," said Mrs. George Kinsman. "Our hotel, called 'The Farmers', was at Second and Wisconsin Avenue. Horse blankets were used as covers."

E. O. Barnes was asked at the Kent House if he were single. Since he was, he was sent to "Ram Pasture" on the upper floor. The cots were so close together there was just room to get into bed. All the other rooms were reserved for ladies and couples.

Homes and stores were as crowded as hotels. Unmarried men, such as Al Robinson, slept in the backs of their stores. Ernest Sutton spoke of sleeping on a pile of dirty clothes when he was night guard in Charles Longstaff's laundry. Ed Miller slept on a pile of buffalo robes in Webb Stiver's store.

The first few years, nearly all the country houses were made of sod or were 12x14 wooden shacks covered with tar paper.

"I made a dugout in the side of the hill," said Charley Miner. "It had no floor but straw and hay. To build it, I plowed sod and cut it into the desired lengths. I then placed them layer upon layer as one would bricks. The walls were 28 inches thick. The inside measured 16x20 with a height of six feet at the side and ten at the apex. I used common clay to cement the cracks in the sod. The door was made of rough boards which cost me 50c. The bookcase was made of limestone."

"Mine is built of sod up to the roof," said Lewis Bloodgood. "My boys, Loat and Mahlon, made steps up the outside so they could get in the window at night without disturbing the family. In the summer my sod is covered with flowers."

Ed Baum told of making bricks by turning water on clay, then putting in cut-up pieces of hay and turning the oxen on the mixture to tramp it. He then put it into brick molds to dry in the sun. He used these for both the inside and outside of his house, putting mud between the layers.

Ella Lawrence wrote, "Bert and I dug 50 feet of sod to make our shanty 28 feet square. It cost \$50 for lumber for supports and roof. For a period of time, we lived in a cellar and had only the light of a lantern at night."

When Mrs. Maude Price was a baby, their sod house near Hitchcock blew over in the night. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Payne, went to another sod house and found that, too, had blown over. They had to crouch near a broken wall until daylight.

"When we came to Pearl Creek Township, there was only one frame house, that of Ezra Fuller—all the others were sod," said Henry Hein, whose parents came in 1882.

It was common either to live in the barn until the house was built or to keep stock in the house until the barn was built. The B. F. Teets family of Liberty Township did the former. "We hung up sheets for partitions," said Mrs. C. A. Kelley, the daughter. Henry Licht of Allen Township reports that they had eight children, three horses, and their cattle and chickens sharing their house the first few years.

Martin Harmon, who had the first frame house in Belle Prairie Township, had two rooms—one for the mules and one for the family. "There are claim shacks on nearly every quarter," he said. "Our houses are named for Chicago hotels. When we visit each other, we say, 'All aboard for the Leland' or 'Right this way for the Grand Pacific'."

"Some Eastern people came to see our sod house," said Mrs. Carl Uecker. "They wrapped a sample of our sod barn in a kerchief. Then when they saw our sod house, they took another souvenir."

The men often came first to get a home built for the women and children. Some lived in tents until they could build their houses. Fifteen or more families from Morenci, Michigan, chartered a train which arrived April 19, 1882. The men had filed on claims in 1881, then returned to Michigan after their families. They lived in two large tents and abandoned sod houses near Broadland until they had time to build. "It snowed the second night and we were very uncomfortable," wrote Ellen Fuller Dickey. "We had to haul water from section 17."

Dirt floors were common even in Huron. "We had a dirt floor in the house where I was born in north Huron," said Mrs. E. T. Gitchell.

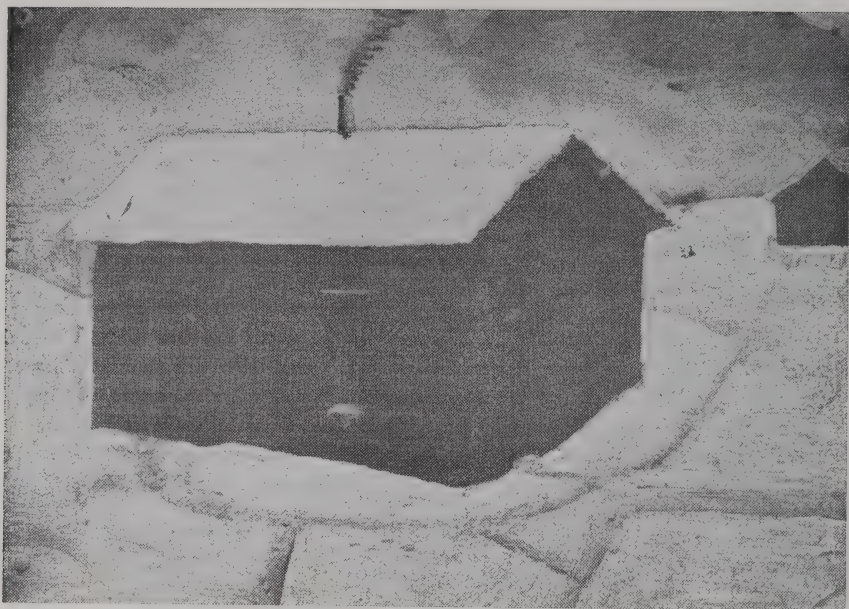
"My grandmother, Mrs. Albert Teuber, used to put straw on her floor to keep it clean," said Mrs. B. A. Cranston. "Not many could afford floors and she wanted to save hers."

Not only did people share their homes with animals, but they were forced to ride with them in immigrant trains. "Two mules, a cow, and chickens were in one end of our car—a walking plow in the other where my mother, my older brother and I stayed," said Mrs. K. B. Anderson. "In the middle of the car were bricks for the lining of our 35-foot well, and a ton of coal—also a dog and cat. We were not supposed to ride in the car. Every time we came to a town, we hid in the feather bed."

"I came on an immigrant train when I was nine," said Mrs. Jerry Harris of Pleasant View Township. "In 1882, we were delayed for five days in Sparta, Wisconsin. We didn't have any food excepting what we brought from home. The horses were at one end of the car, the cows at the other and my uncle, my sister, 11, and I were in the middle."

"It took grandmother 21 days to come 300 miles in a covered wagon," said Mrs. Vincent Madden. "With 20 head of cattle and ten sheep to manage, she did well."

Mrs. Carl Uecker brought six hens and a rooster in the train coach. One could expect to see almost anything. Howard Sedam's parents brought a wash boiler full of sandwiches; Ed Miller wrote of a hard time collecting oats they scattered over their furniture. Water for cattle and people sometimes was brought in barrels.



This is a copy of the first hand painting in Beadle County. It is the picture of Irad Parkhurst's sod house, Custer Township, done by his wife. Irad came in '79 and filed on section 18 and returned the next year and built a sod house where they lived three years after which it was used for a school several years.

Some rather amusing stories are told of the crowded conditions. Anna Hixson told of five sleeping in one bed—two with their heads to the foot and three the other way. In their shanty in Whiteside Township, they put the ironing board across a box of books and a bench, and used it for a bed at night. During the day, the bench held a water pail and wash basin.

Laura Seeley was one of the pioneer children who had to be content playing on the bed—no room on the floor. Chairs placed along the sides of the bed were used for sleeping purposes in the Henry Hein home. "There were nine of us in our 12x14 house. Our one-room attic helped," he said.

Some who spoke of having lived in small sod shanties along with from eight to ten other children include Fred Gabel, Mrs. Hattie Klebs, Mrs. Max Vetterman, and O. W. Coursey. Harry Marone said they lived in one seven years and had to stay in bed for several days at a time to keep from freezing. Perhaps the H. G. De Long, the Ole Anderson, and the John Schollian families lived in sod houses the longest time—the John Schollians, 11 years.

"The snakes used to crawl in ours," said Otto Todnem. "We lived

there seven years with only one window and door. Sometimes the sod got wet and fell down."

"Father Mahoney said our sod house was the best he had seen," said Irad Parkhurst, who lived in one several years before it was used as a school house. In the Beadle County files is a hand painting of this sod house, done by his wife—the first hand painting in Beadle County.

More than 40 people residing in Beadle County now had relatives who lived here in sod houses. Of those who were born in a soddy are four of the Charley Miner family—James, Nelson, Charles Jr., and Mrs. Gale Small. Others are Art Allen, Mrs. Harry Peek, Otto Todnem, Mrs. George Thomas, Mrs. Eva Payne, Mrs. Maud Price, Fred Anderson, Mrs. Minnie Croes Hain, Wm. Kawalke, and Mrs. Harry Jacobsen.

CHAPTER 4

Facts, Figures, and Fights

Thus in desperate exultation
They built better than they dreamed—
Built with thirst and direst hunger;
Built with sweat and trembling footsteps
That our land might give the food
For children's children yet to come.

Surprisingly, the early stores carried a wide variety of goods. Edwin Wheeler who had the first new store in Huron and who brought his lumber by team from Volga, had crockery, hardware, coal, stoves, breaking plows, mowers, stationery, celluloid shirt fronts, New Testaments, Estee organs, and the Chicago newspaper. The marble pillars costing \$1000 each in his later store must have been impressive. One year he sold \$1000 worth of Christmas greeting cards.

Several of the settlers told of the price of supplies the first few years. In 1880 Dr. Hugh Russell paid \$100 for a horse, \$40 for a cow, and \$7 a hundred for flour. The price of a horse would buy a yoke of oxen which would stand up under heavy work better than horses, and the upkeep was less. Some oxen weighed as much as 3500 pounds and could be traded for a quarter of land. In 1883, a team, wagon, plow, and drag could be bought for between \$300 and \$400.

Will and Charles Joy, who came May 10, 1880, bought their lot for \$10 from a squatter, James Baker. Within a year, the lot was said to have been worth \$1200. The Joys paid \$500 for their grocery stock and took in \$16 the first day. In December, 1881, they netted \$500 one Saturday.

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It was very hard to get cash, and many farmers traded their eggs and butter for groceries. They took their grain to the mill to exchange it for flour. For a quarter of land Reed Terrell traded a buckskin horse; Jack Stiver, a set of harnesses; Pat Finley, a team of horses; one man traded a good gun. Joe Daum gave a lot in Huron for \$95 worth of horse feed. Carl Gibbs delivered milk to Dr. F. O. Sale in payment for some false teeth for his mother.

In 1883 Frank Barlow employed six men and sold \$1000 worth of whips in seven months. Buying horse collars by the thousands, he sold harnesses as fast as he could make them. Harnesses were from \$30 to \$35 and saddles from \$3 to \$25—side saddle from \$3 to \$15.

The advertisements in the early papers differ considerably in different years. Hand-sewed harnesses with collars could be bought at J. M. Stiver's for \$40; overcoats were \$2.25; writing desks, 75c;

chairs 25c—the last two quoted in 1883. Henry Hein said they bought the rights to a quarter without improvements for \$25. William Newton, who lived in Bloodgood's Addition, spoke of lots there costing \$10 with a tax of about \$1.

Mrs. Max Vetterman spoke of 12 pounds of Arbuckle coffee for \$1 and dried apples, 8c a pound. In 1888 her family sold eight spring pigs for 75c each. Mrs. G. Klebs spoke of having one or two pounds of butter to exchange for coffee. If a penny were left, she could get a stick of candy which she divided into four parts so the others could have a taste. J. W. Schollian also tells of the wonderful time they had at Christmas with chicken for dinner and 10c worth of candy for dessert.

Food at restaurants included all one could eat for 25c. The traveling men were glad to pay 10c extra for the use of a tablecloth and napkin.

Wages were low some years. Earl Corley told of charging 25c to shoe horses and 75c to sharpen plow lays. Simon Brandmire and others spoke of working for \$1 a day. Mrs. A. Mannie worked for 10c an hour in the Foasberg laundry. However, in a later period, Mrs. Dennis Sauer, who worked in a dressmaking shop, described the fancy dresses with their \$15 worth of hand work such as beading, point lace, or faggoting. Mrs. Sauer was responsible for getting seamstresses' wages raised from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day.

The years 1881 and 1882 were important ones for Dakota. On June 30, 1880, the population of Dakota was 135,000 and by December 1, 1882, it was 210,000. Three-fourths of all the homestead entries on government land in the United States in 1882 were in Dakota Territory. In 1861 the population was 2,376; in 1870, 14,181, and from 1880 until 1885 it had increased to 415,610.

Huron had its share. In September, 1882, there were 70 business houses on Dakota Avenue, 16 on Third Street, nine on Wisconsin, and 35 on other streets, making a total of 130. Huron first consisted of 11 blocks, the north boundary being **First Street; the east, Iowa Avenue; the South, Third Street; and the west, Ohio Avenue.** Later Idaho Avenue had the largest houses. T. J. Nicholl owned the so-called "Castle on the Hill" at 267 East Third Street.

According to Ernest Sutton, there was a dispute as to whether the town should be built toward the south or west. The feeling was so bitter that frequent fires at night caused the citizens to make a ruling that anyone found on the streets after nine o'clock would be shot. That stopped the fires.

The census report shows the population of Beadle County to have been 1,290 in 1880. By 1885, it was 10,318—larger than it was in 1900 when it had a population of 8,081. A Huron directory compiled by Charles Campbell in 1883 shows a population of 3,783 in Huron.

The fast growth of Huron is shown by the frequent additions. In

October, 1881, 12 blocks were added to the original 11. Soon eight and a half more blocks, as well as the capital grounds—20 acres donated by the railroad—were platted. In April, 1882, 18 more were completed, making 70 blocks including those for the capital. In addition to the railroad blocks, George Sterling and L. B. Black platted six blocks west of the railroad addition; E. W. Foster and F. J. Fisher added nine more; and in August, 1882, Pettigrew and Rumble platted six more; in September, 1882, 12 more were added. In one day in April, 1882, nearly \$6,000 worth were sold by the railroad company. In the Beadle County files is a receipt showing that in 1881, William Ennis purchased the northwest quarter of section 7 in Custer Township for \$1.25 an acre. This now is the southeast part of Huron.

Tom Fleming, an old settler, said that, for a period of time, the railroad company reserved a circle of about two blocks in width at the edge of their land. If not used for churches or schools, this land was to be returned to the railroad.

One of the big days for Huron was October 9, 1882, when the federal land office opened with 1,000 filings in one day. The line waiting for the opening extended from Wisconsin Avenue and Third Street to Dakota Avenue, then to Second Street. Hotels ran out of food. A line of teams for a quarter of a mile was reported. Some on the trains wired for livery teams to meet their train when it stopped for an instant outside of town so that they could get ahead of other passengers.

William and George Love, land agents, hired a man to sit from 3 p.m. Saturday until 9 a.m. Monday in order to remain the first in line. Then, to his dismay, Mr. Love discovered he had forgotten his key to his grip where he had his papers. His valise took his place while he rushed for his key. When the door finally opened, the line pushed Love in head over heels.

Frank Stevens of the Beadle County Bank told of his experiences that first night. "Detectives from Chicago warned me I would need extra protection for the bank with so much money in circulation. That night we had an extra armory of guns, rifles, and revolvers, and I asked several friends to stay with me. We literally slept on our arms, expecting to have something happen any minute. We heard noises all night—men coming from the gambling place on Kansas Avenue.

"The crisis came between two and three in the morning when we heard a noise near the timbers by the vault which was under us. Everyone tiptoed over for his arms. Another sound! Will Sterling put the muzzle of his gun to the floor and shot. The noise stopped and everyone congratulated Will for balking Huron's first bank robber. We could hardly wait for morning so we could pull out the dead robber. Daylight obliged us at last. Will crawled under the building while we remained near to help pull out the body. Presently, feet foremost, Will backed out. In his hand was a yellow rooster, riddled almost to bits."



A drawing of Huron in the early 1880s

Since it cost \$14 to file on a claim, it is no wonder that there was a fear of burglary; 100,000 acres were filed upon in just a few hours. Between October 8, 1882, and August, 1883, there were 17,937 entries on 2,755,630 acres of land.

In the *Dakota Leader*, 1883, is the following: "If 744,893 acres disposed of by the Huron office during the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1882, could be shaped into a strip one foot wide, it would be 6,145,367 miles long and reach from the earth to one-fifteenth the distance to the sun. During seventy working days of the quarter 5,464 claims were entered with final proofs made—an average of 78 a day. An average income per day was \$3,893. The receiver, Robert Lowry, says that it is greater than that of any other land office in Dakota for that period. The land office received 2,400 filings and entries from Jan. 1 to March 1 and sent to Washington \$125,000."

The period from 1877 to 1885 is known as the "great Dakota boom." From 1875 to 1885, the gain in population in Dakota was 803%. From 1879 to 1889, nearly forty-two million acres of land were filed upon. Wherever there was a side track, a town sprang up. It was reported that an average of 1,000 a week came into Huron from September 1887 to September, 1888. Twenty-two trains a day were reported out of Huron. Huron had a population of 1500 in 1882, 3000 when four years old; 4000 in 1886; 4500 in 1887; and 5000 by January 4, 1888. It evidently lost over 1000 the next few years for the census showed 3,038 in 1890. By 1900 there were only 2,793. The lowest population was in 1889; the poorest crops were that year, and in 1894.

By 1884 Huron had over twenty streets. By March, 1886, all the desirable property in the central part of Huron was taken. It was said that for \$1,000 cash, a man could own his own home. The amount spent in building in 1881 was \$75,000; in 1882, \$212,525; in 1883, \$440,770 (including over \$50,000 for the court house and water works); in 1884, \$136,475; in 1885, over \$200,000; and in 1886, \$262,755.

The *Daily Leader* of August 6, 1883, had an advertisement for inside lots in Fisher's Addition quoted from \$80 to \$150; corner lots, \$100 to \$175. In 1887 Park Addition, three blocks south of the Utah Avenue school, had lots for sale on condition that at least a \$100 house would be built. The first 100 lots were to be sold at \$30 each; the second hundred, \$50 each, and the third, \$100 each.

By 1884 the farmers began to feel they were having to pay too much for what they had to buy and did not get enough for what they had to sell. They met and organized the Farmers' Alliance, which was non-partisan in origin but later played an important part in politics. In 1890 they built a \$20,000 building at the corner of Dakota Avenue and Fourth Streets. Later it was sold and on March 22, 1897 it burned with a loss considered at \$70,000 since there were many offices there. One loss was a valuable library worth \$2,500 which Coe I. Crawford had just brought from Pierre. Among other

things burned were some of the weather bureau records and the display flags.

In 1885 Huron was the center for making loans. The average cost of proving up was \$250 and the average loan was not to exceed \$325. The size of farms increased with the years. During the hard times, some mortgaged their farms and left the state.

In 1886 Beadle County was the second wealthiest county in Dakota. There were 264 men working for the railroad with an average monthly payroll of \$22,000. The Huron Milling Company had a capacity of 150 barrels a day. The Huron Meat Company could handle 300 hogs a day. Bowe and Brumwell had a grist mill that handled two car loads of ground wheat and corn in 24 hours. John Alexander and several others made millions of bricks. Alexander's brick yard four miles west of Huron was best known. John A. Sauer had one of the largest cigar factories in the Middle West and his salesmen sold cigars in four states.

Much building was done in 1886 and 1887. Of the buildings built then several are still in use, among them the first Odd Fellows building, the Houghton, Jeffris, and Meyers blocks and the Dineen block, formerly called the Wright block. Business lots sold for as high as \$5,000 and residential lots near the business district from \$75 to \$400.

However, there was hardly any crop in 1888 in Beadle County, although it was fair in the state. The year 1889 was the hardest since the grasshopper invasion in 1875. With three successive years of poor crops, including that of 1890, many left the state, some during the night to avoid paying debts.

It was about this time that settlers started to raise more cattle and poultry. Creameries were started in the early 1890's. F. R. Holbrook started the first cheese factory in South Dakota near Broadland with milk from over 150 cows promised. According to Frank Oviatt who lived near, Holbrook paid 50c a 100 pounds during the summer and \$1 in the spring and fall. Each year it opened about April 1 and closed about the middle of November. Farmers were given whey according to the amount of milk they brought. Roads led in all directions and some settlers came as early as 5:00 a.m. to get ahead of others. Since a cow paid a farmer an average of \$2 a month, it was a fine thing to have an opportunity to pay off debts. The cheese, known as the Clover Hill, sold for a half cent more than other cheese in Chicago where half of it was sold. One year 50 tons were made. The factory was sold in 1901 and run by the farmers for a few years. In 1904 it burned. Taking milk to the factory or to creameries at various places was the job of the farmers' wives or daughters. Many recall the creamery on east Third Street, started in 1888, and those at Cavour and Iroquois besides a few in the country. As soon as the smaller rotary cream separator was invented, farmers bought their own. In the Beadle County files is a certificate of

corporate existence of the Huron Creamery and Cold Storage. F. B. Kent, William Voss, and T. M. Jeffris started it. Lou Bangs was the butter maker for several years.

The slump in the 1890's affected everyone. It was said that everything was mortgaged but the old hen. Settlers had run into debt for machinery and prices declined fast. The settlers became poorer and poorer. The change in general conditions is shown by the fact that in 1881, 60 men worked in the railroad shops; in 1883, 75; in 1886, 264; and by 1893, there were only five. These received from 17c to 25c an hour in wages.

In one 1890 Huronite is an advertisement of W. R. Tait which reads: prints, \$.04; sheeting, \$.13; dress goods, \$.18. Beef was \$1.75 a hundred pounds. In the year of the panic of 1893, one couldn't borrow money. Many banks failed in 1894 when the state had the poorest crop in the United States. There was no public money that year. Anna Hixson said she was to receive \$20 a month for teaching but had to discount it 10 percent at the bank to collect it. Hired men worked for almost nothing—glad to have a place to stay. Lots sold for as little as \$1.00, or less, such as the transfer from Tom Jeffris to Fred Wilcox.

Conditions were almost as bad in other places. In the United States, three million men were out of work. The average price of land in various parts of the state in 1894 was \$10 an acre. The 1895 crop was good, but prices still were low. There was little building done in 1896 although the crop was excellent. In 1897 the harvest was good, and prices became a little better.

Some amusing prices were given in a report of the Huron graduating class of 1894. Lillian Kelsey reported fines for chewing gum and using slang. They spent \$.14 for a gift for the professor; \$.10 for a class reception, and \$.04 for the teacher's gift.

The settlers did not want to be called poverty-stricken. They resented the publicity in 1890 when members of the Dorcas Society told of their starvation and collected money for them in the East. The cash received that year by the society amounted to over \$1,000, and over 2,000 people were assisted. Readers' letters protested but Governor Arthur Mellette said that Dakota people should accept any help offered. The county commissioners voted \$20,000 for seed to be distributed among the farmers. The state appropriated large sums and by April 12, 1890, 25 counties had applied for help, the railroad furnishing free transportation. Coal could be bought for \$2.00 a ton but it was limited. The South Dakota Bankers' Association subscribed \$10,000.

The prospects for a capital to be located in Huron, the possible chance for irrigation with artesian water, and the speculation concerning the finding of coal filled the papers with schemes for advancement during this period. No doubt, the coal boom was planned by land agents to keep up the price of land. Coal drilling started

September 4, 1887, one mile north of the railroad tracks. The coal was said to be 37 inches thick and burn much like hard coal. There were three or four other so-called mines. In 1888 an advertisement enticed the settlers: "160 acres, worth \$50,000 as soon as coal is found—two miles west of depot, \$5,000." Another, "Ten acres of east front on Dakota Avenue, one and a half miles from post office, worth \$10,000 as soon as coal is struck, \$3,000." A news item read, "Huron coal miners strike coal at depth of 460 feet."

In the Lawrence Du Bois file he wrote, "The miners pretended they needed to fix some machinery. They may have been waiting for more suckers."

About this time many artesian wells were being dug and plans for irrigation were advocated. C. M. Harrison, who studied irrigation in Utah, prophesied that in 10 years there would be 5000 artesian wells irrigating five million acres of land which would be worth \$50 an acre. It was anticipated that the Hitchcock well would irrigate 5000 acres at a cost of \$6 an acre. Twenty thousand dollars were voted to survey and experiment. F. F. B. Coffin was appointed state engineer. The cost of canals was estimated at \$6000 a mile which would increase the value of land \$20 an acre or \$25,000 a mile. A mill was planned at Wolsey which boasted the largest well in the James Valley. The townships were allowed to bond themselves. Fred Tobin wrote that the state furnished the money for two large reservoirs in Iowa Township. Donald Diekhoff recalls that his grandfather hauled tile for one of these reservoirs. R. O. Richards, head of the Diamond Irrigation Company, was active in these projects. The dissolved minerals in the artesian water ruined much of the land, and the reservoirs still remind farmers of their past errors.

The influence of the capital contests was far-reaching and touched every phase of the growing state since the hope of having the capital influenced the planning of many a town. Huron, as well as other towns, recalls it with shame. The contest was "hot" even from the beginning when, in 1862, at the eleventh day of the session of the first legislature in Yankton, the United States soldiers, with muskets, marched to the speaker's stand to prevent violence.

In a May issue of the *Dakota Leader*, 1883, is a detailed account of the nine members of a capital committee visiting different towns to determine the best site for a capital. After having breakfast at the Wright House, they were conveyed to the grounds offered for the capital—land a mile west of the business section and a half-mile from the railroad—the northeast quarter of section 11 of what was later Clyde Township. Another handsome site offered was a half mile below the railroad bridge. T. J. Nicholl gave an elaborate reception. It is not known what made the committee choose Bismarck—the menu printed on white silk or \$100,000 cash and the 300 acres of land.

At a territorial constitutional convention at Sioux Falls in 1885, a constitution was accepted and officers elected. Huron was chosen as the capital. In the Beadle County files is a certificate of election,

1885, signed by I. Hugh Campbell, president of the state executive committee at Sioux Falls. The representative for the twenty-third district was F. F. B. Coffin with a term of two years. The "squatter government" was addressed by Arthur Mellette, the squatter governor. Two senators were elected and the meeting adjourned. It had no legal status and was not recognized by Congress.

In the Beadle County files is an announcement of the reception given when the legislative body met in Huron. The reception committee all had "Sir" in front of their names instead of "Mr." On the committee were familiar names such as S. Glenn, Niel McKay, Edward Cass, Kirk Wheeler, Frank Stevens, Lawrence Choate, Allen Risdon, and James Ayres. The reception was attended by 1,000 and 500 were served by the Y. M. C. A.

On December 15, 1886, the legislative body again met in Huron to try to get action. Gilbert A. Pierce had just resigned as territorial governor in Bismarck and Judge Louis Church was appointed December 13, 1886. The Bismarck paper spoke of using force to disperse the meeting at Huron. Governor Church lived for several years at Tenth Street and Dakota Avenue, Huron, and according to some people, also owned a house at Lake Byron.

Nothing was done toward admitting the Dakotas to the Union until William Harrison became President. On February 22, 1889, South and North Dakota were admitted. A new constitutional convention met the following May and practically re-adopted the constitution of 1885. The new state of South Dakota took its place in the Union November 2, 1889. Arthur Mellette was the first governor of the state.

In 1890 there was the greatest wholesale corruption in connection with choosing a permanent location for the capital. A Capital Investment Company subsidized the newspapers and votes were bought all over the state. H. J. Rice, chairman of the Huron committee, refused to sign papers for the raising of bonds unless most of the voters approved. In the Beadle County files is a petition signed July 23, 1889 by most of the men in Huron—page after page of names, consenting to "raising such amount of warrants or bonds as necessary, not exceeding \$60,000, to carry on a successful issue in the capital contest." There is also a sheet of advertisement showing that Huron was the best place for the capital. Also in the files is a picture of the committee, H. J. Rice, Hamilton Kerr, and George Heineman, who were sent to Washington to further Huron's interest. City lots were promised to persons of doubtful vote. In the files are the deeds to two lots to be transferred for \$50 each in case Huron got the capital. Another interesting souvenir of the capital fight is a receipt for some shares in the Capital Investment Company. Ninety per cent of the shares were to be paid for after Huron got the capital. The Huron water works, said to be worth \$100,000, were sold to a private corporation for \$45,000.

An 1890 Huronite states that a Huron school section worth

\$2,000,000 was to be given the state and that there was a \$2,000,000 school fund available with a net income of \$120,000 a year. It claimed the assessor's valuation to be \$5,500,000 which at 3 per cent would pay the indebtedness. Western Town Lots paid \$5,357.32 taxes.

Huron and Pierre were the only towns in the race at the opening, but Wolsey entered in the closing days and offered 1,000 acres of good land with the promise that the sale could be used for the state debt. One can see in big headlines in some of the Wolsey papers, "Wolsey for Capital," with a promise of a \$200,000 state house. Pierre accused Huron of issuing scrip paper, redeemable at face value if Huron won. It was said that everything excepting the river bottom in Pierre was platted.

After Huron lost to Pierre, lawsuit followed lawsuit. In 1892 when Col. H. Ray Meyers became mayor, he started suits to relieve the city from payment of illegal warrants of \$140,000 bearing 7 per cent interest and \$97,000 bearing 6 per cent. The State Supreme Court relieved the city from payment and recovered the waterworks for the city.

CHAPTER 5

Growing Pains

They staked their lives against the vast unknown,
The chance of lonely slow starvation
In cold, in fierce heat and drought—
No reservations dimmed their valiant dreams.

The pioneer spirit included taking whatever came and making the best of it. One of the greatest handicaps during the first years was the lack of good drinking water. Most of the first wells had strong alkali. Country people had to haul water for miles, sometimes on a stone boat. None was wasted. Bath water served as scrub water and wash water was used until it was black. Drinking water was kept in jugs or milk cans in the coolest place and covered with wet cloths—sometimes in caves or water tanks or moved from place to place as the shade changed.

"We didn't have water fit to drink until August 1880," said Charles Loveland, who had charge of the Jim River House. "I used to carry it in big pails hung to a yoke across my shoulders. I had to go to a spring near the river. C. D. Joy hauled 15 gallons a day from the same spring. His lemonade business at 5c a glass was stopped when Dr. Hugh Russell shared his "town pump" as it was called. The well was only 10 feet deep but it supplied water for 60 head of livery horses a day besides countless teams from the country and over 40 families."

Many bought water from Ed Haines who sold it for 10c a bucket or 50c a barrel. In 1883, Hitchcock people had to go to the Jim River or pay the same price for delivery; otherwise, do as Mrs. Fred Webb who got her water from a slough, then strained it through several thicknesses of cloth.

In 1883 and 1884 the first water mains and plant were constructed in Huron. An 1884 Huronite tells of water being filtered through 50 feet of gravel. It is reported that the first city wells were at Dakota Avenue and Second Street, Kansas and Third, and Wisconsin and Third, and that the first artesian well was dug near the river bottom northwest of the wagon bridge.

Before the artesian wells became common, it was sometimes very hard to strike water. The Wilford Johnsons, parents of Mrs. W. B. Nash, who lived near Broadland, had 17 wells in 17 years. One year they had three: one for the house and two horses; a second for the other horses, and a third for the cattle. They spent all their spare time carrying water from Broadland and dumping it in their



Bonilla artesian well sunk by James Borah and Irving Cooper. Pressure, 175 lbs. per sq. in. Flow, 1440 gallons per minute.

wells. John Hanley said they hauled water from Broadland for 10 years. Fred Gabel reported that they had to take cattle two miles while they were digging 22 holes to get a producing well.

Sometimes one farmer had the only good drinking water for miles around. Frank Bloodgood of Custer Township said that 75 teams drank from their water tank in one day. "We had the only good well near Virgil," said Harold Doyle. "My father lost his job working on the Milwaukee road grading by being falsely accused of hitting a surveyor's stake. Grandfather refused the foreman a drink of water until my father was reinstated. It worked."

Perhaps the fact that James Borah and Irving Cooper dug a total of 26 holes near Bonilla, meanwhile hauling water for nearly four miles, accounted for their buying a machine and digging artesian wells from 1884 to 1907.

The cost of an artesian well from 700 to 800 feet deep was from \$350 to \$500. There were several in Huron—one reported in an 1890 issue of the *Huronite* with 1590 gallons of water a minute which shot into the air 150 feet. Four printing presses were run by a motor operated by power from this well. In the Beadle County files is a picture of the well at Third and Wisconsin, also several of the Risdon and Woonsocket wells. The Hitchcock well produced power to run a flour mill with a capacity of 58 barrels of flour a day.

"We had a contract to not pay the well driller unless he struck water," wrote Mrs. Carl Uecker. Allen Risdon did the same, and in 1891 his well had a pressure of 5000 gallons of water a minute. The water shot with so much force it could be seen for miles. For a short time in 1895, it furnished power for the Huron lights.

The lack of water supply and the frequent drought made prairie fires a real hazard which always terrified the settlers. Strong winds carried the flames through the tall grass, tumble weeds jumped roads, and even railroad tracks, and spread flames to fresh land. At first there were no fire breaks. John Blair, who came in 1879, said that a fire swept the country between Huron and Sioux Falls.

O. W. Coursey, whose parents pioneered near Virgil, reported that they could see one coming for two days. A break 100 feet wide was necessary to collect insurance. The Courseys made a break a half mile wide to save their home. Mrs. Coursey had her clothes and hair burned while trying to protect a grainstack. Since one never knew from what direction the wind might come, it was necessary to backfire around the entire farm. Mrs. Silas Peet wrote of plowing four furrows four miles around their farm. Fire fighters often tried to stop the head fire by plowing parallel furrows and burning grass between the furrows. If the wind were strong, they continued with other breaks.

"My aunt, Mrs. Hudson Horsley, saved her life by lying in a furrow and covering herself with dirt," said Mrs. Otto Kuehl. Others couldn't reach plowed ground in time. Mrs. Sara Thompson told of her sister, Annie Muraine, and Ed and Kathryn Maloney being overtaken by a fire about five miles south of Huron April 7, 1887. Anna and Kathryn were sewing in the basement when they smelled smoke. Rushing upstairs, they discovered the straw banking of the house already was burning. As they tried to escape, their skirts caught fire. Anna lived only a few hours but Kathryn lived about a week and told of her brother Ed who was working near the house when he saw the fire coming. It came too fast for him to escape. The fire had started south of Virgil from a spark from the train engine, and the strong wind had sent it shooting across the prairies.

Another fire April 2, 1888, which started from a burning tumble weed from the city dump, went as far as Carthage, doing a great amount of damage, but no lives were lost. Some settlers, such as the M. V. Robins, escaped by getting into caves.

According to the Wessington Times of November 7, 1896, the grandfather of Mrs. R. A. Buchanan, D. W. Dake of Wessington, made a fire fighter of a long two-by-four with grain sacks attached to it. This was drawn at right angles to a wagon on which were barrels of water to keep the drag wet. This helped in fighting side fires. Gunny sacks, mops, and carpets were much used and at one time even the best petticoat of Mrs. L. Hixson. Mrs. W. Johnson saved their house by putting wet carpets on the roof.

About the only benefit of these fires was reported by Mrs. H. G. Eggleston who said they relished the cooked prairie chicken eggs which they found along Sand Creek after a fire that raged in the tall grass.

Cyclones were another terror. On August 28, 1884, there was considerable loss but only one person killed, Angus McKillup of Forestburg. Mrs. John Dramsdahl gave a vivid description of this cyclone. It was black as night, then she heard a terrible roar—a crashing of lumber, furniture, and dishes. Fortunately, her mother pushed her into an empty packing box where she escaped injury while they both were carried several hundred feet. A stone boat with a lounge upon it served as an ambulance for her mother who was badly hurt. They never found many of their possessions which were scattered for miles.

Mrs. J. J. Robins reported that in this cyclone Mrs. Will Briggs was saved by putting a butter tub over her head and getting into the corner while the tubs whirled about her. This cyclone did freakish things such as sucking the water out of the river, taking butter out of crocks, leaving the crocks unbroken, and yanking potatoes out of the ground. It took Risdon's barn and left unharmed two calves and some puppies. O. Kinney, Pearl Creek Township, reported that his horse went up three times and came down alive—also that a team was carried away and later came back.

It was reported this cyclone was from 80 to 125 feet wide and had five funnels visible at one time. It went through several states.

In the Beadle County files are five stereoptican views of this cyclone. Originally sketched by S. Glenn as the cyclone moved east of Huron, they were later made into slides by E. T. Cressey who used them for lecturing. Besides these sketches is a copy, done by Miss Louise French in 1903, of the only picture taken of this cyclone.

Blizzards were another horror, especially the first few years. The one on January 12, 1888, was the worst in history. Before it struck, there were banks of fog from 15 to 20 miles wide which rested across the prairies. Between these banks, there were stretches where the sun shone brightly so that many people had taken the opportunity to go after supplies. Most children had gone to school as usual. About 11 o'clock, a mass of snow came rolling from the north. The record at the Huron weather bureau gave the wind at 11:40 a.m. at 12 miles an hour; at 11:45, 42; at 11:47, 48 and changed to the west, shifting to the northwest; at 12:15, it was 57 and continued so until 1:15. At 1:30, it was 60 and from the northwest. From then until 10:00 a.m., Friday, the average was from 48 to 53 miles per hour. It subsided about daylight.

It was said that a person out in the blizzard would be in danger of freezing, especially if he tried to face the wind. The temperature was 30 below zero. However, Joe Wilson found a tree claim and

buried himself in snow. The Nierson brothers near Virgil had taken a sick horse for Joe to doctor. They all tried to get back to Nierson's but became separated and the Niersons froze to death. Wilson lost his fingers and toes. Lawrence DuBois wrote of trying to clean out the Nierson barn full of frozen cattle. It was one of the hardest jobs he ever tried, he said.

In the Beadle County files are several pictures of Johnny Chambers and his dog. "Johnny lived here many years after his father was frozen," said E. I. Bowe. Robert Chambers and his two sons, nine and 11, had gone on horses to get the cattle. When the father found the storm getting worse, he sent the older boy home. With Johnny and the dog, he soon was forced to crawl into the snow. The dog kept barking while the father tried to keep his boy from freezing by wrapping his coat around him. Clarence McIlvaine heard the dog barking the next morning and found Johnny, his feet and fingers slightly frosted, and his father, frozen to death.

Others in the county who lost their lives that night were Joshua Scofield of Burr Oak Township, brother of Dr. Perry Scofield of De Smet; Thomas Gilkerson who lived south of Huron, and Adam Gerner, grandfather of Blanche Gerner of Huron. Many school children stayed in schoolhouses overnight and the several who tried to get home froze to death.

"The parents of our teacher, Mary Connell, were old and feeble, and Mary thought she had to get home," said Mrs. B. Ford, Cavour. "The school was only 90 rods from her home. Mary, her cousin, Katie Broderick, and Johnny Newcome, my brother, started out but soon became hopelessly lost. Katie and Mary buried themselves in the snow, but Johnny became separated. We would have had trouble finding his body if we hadn't seen his scarf waving above the snow. Something dropped in the yard showed that they had been quite close to the house. Katie had to have her feet amputated."

"We've never found the graves of my aunt and two uncles," said Earl French whose father's two brothers and sister were frozen to death while returning from school in Pleasant View Township. "They had promised the teacher to stay at school but when they saw a light in their house, they thought they could get there. Irene, then 18, lived long enough to tell what had happened."

Many recall their experiences during that blizzard. Huron children were all saved, though some felt the effects for years afterwards. "I was eight years old then and was so weak I couldn't go to school the next year," said Mrs. John Melum. "Four or five of us were tied together, and Mr. Hughes helped us from the Illinois School as far as Bill Ormond's home which was about a block from ours. Mr. Hughes took me to the alley, then held the rope which was tied around me while I tried to go alone. He told me that if the rope slacked, he would know I was home and if it jerked, he would know I had fallen. I staggered through the snow for what seemed hours before I found our house."

"A rope led from the Utah Street building to Seventh and Idaho," said Harry Schaller. "Several men helped us across the streets, then those who lived farther tried to follow fences as best they could. I lived on East Third Street." Mrs. Harry Teuber recalls her father, Tom Price, telling of helping to string this rope. Albert Blume reported that men took turns holding a rope and going in circles to try to help people. Mrs. Engar Anderson Hayes said they would never have reached their home on the north side of Huron if they hadn't followed the street car tracks.

Tom Fleming recalls that he narrowly escaped freezing in that blizzard. "That janitor should never have let us start. My father was working on the railroad and I had given up his coming after us. At 3:00 p.m. we started out from the Illinois School. A girl about 12 surely showed intelligence when she told us to get into a huddle and yell if we got lost. It wasn't long before we were completely confused. After yelling, we saw a dim light and followed it. Exhausted, we stumbled into a home and waited, wondering whether our parents were out in the blizzard looking for us. Finally, my father came. He had stopped at every house until he found us."

Many old-timers stayed in the schoolhouse that night. "We rang the bell while the teacher, George Issenhuth, was getting coal from the shed only a few feet from the door," said John Hein.

"Mother said they would never have found their way if Mrs. A. Denning hadn't hammered on the dishpan," said Mrs. Everett Bischoff. "The men stepped on familiar boards over a well or they wouldn't have reached home either."

"That straw stack where the John Smith children stayed overnight was near our house," said Mrs. Ella Frey. "Smith's son, William, had gone after his two sisters. They and two neighbor's children became lost and dug a hole in the stack into which they crawled. William managed to keep them awake, and in the morning they tried to get home, but had to go back to the schoolhouse."

Archie Crowell reported that all the men in Iroquois got all the clotheslines they could find and roped the children together, a man at each end. Then his father put a rope across the street so they would go into their store.

Ezra Fuller, father of Mrs. Leonard Stout, had heard that a person could survive if he buried himself in snow. In order to get air, he kept stirring the snow in front of his face. As a result he lost all the fingers and part of his thumb on one hand.

"A. R. King came over with a hand sled to get hay for his cow," said Charley Doyle. "Father had to lock the door to keep him from going home in the blizzard."

The winter of 1896-1897 stands out distinctly as another hard experience. Winter started early in the fall and one bad storm after another packed the snow so hard that teams could drive over the

top of it. Roads were blocked, and stock as well as people suffered. Only half of the corn crop had been cared for and but two-thirds of the wheat had been threshed. Farmers couldn't find their hay stacks. Potatoes hadn't been dug, and the snow came so fast that they were found unfrozen the next spring.

Many had to stay in schoolhouses all night during a blizzard February 19 and another March 11. Some were told to save their bread crusts for blizzards. Mrs. Mary Liebel Bialas wrote that she always carried extra food when it looked stormy. Many carried ropes so that one person could go in a circle while the other held the rope.

Anna Hixson had another unusual experience staying in the schoolhouse with 30 of her pupils during the blizzard of March 11. Some of the older boys insisted they must go home or their horses would freeze—then their parents would scold them. She tried to convince them that if they went, they would freeze too, but they thought they knew better. The result was that four horses shared the schoolhouse.

"The storm was so bad we couldn't get into the barn and had to keep our horse in the house," wrote Frank Bloodgood. "Mrs. Little, our teacher, said that horse saved her life several times during blizzards."

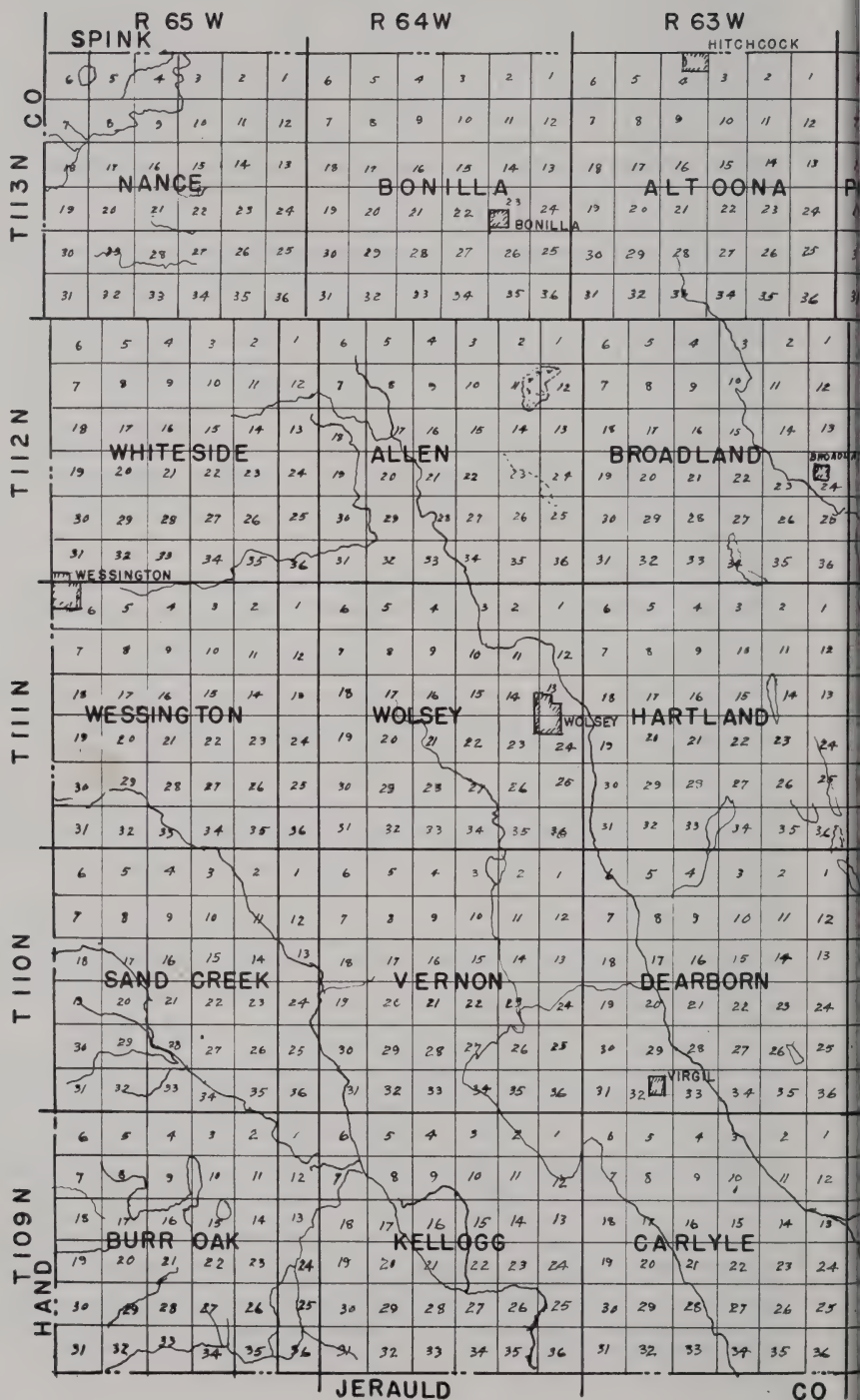
Transportation was almost prohibited. The last of January passengers were snowbound in Highmore for four days and had to be carried to hotels on stone boats. Pierre had no mail from February 11 to February 19. There were no trains on the Great Northern for six months, but the Chicago & North Western came as far as Huron most of the time. Cuts were 20 feet deep and as hard as ice.

"To get hay to burn and feed for the cattle, we had to tunnel to the haystack which was on the side of a hill," said Harry Marone. "Father put a board on top of the tunnel and when we needed a boiler of hay, he lowered me on a rope, then the boiler which I filled, then he pulled us up."

In the Beadle County files is a picture of the snow at Third and Dakota Avenue. Two tunnels led north and south and east and west. "They were there for several weeks and would have lasted longer if the boys hadn't broken the snow on top," said E. I. Bowe.

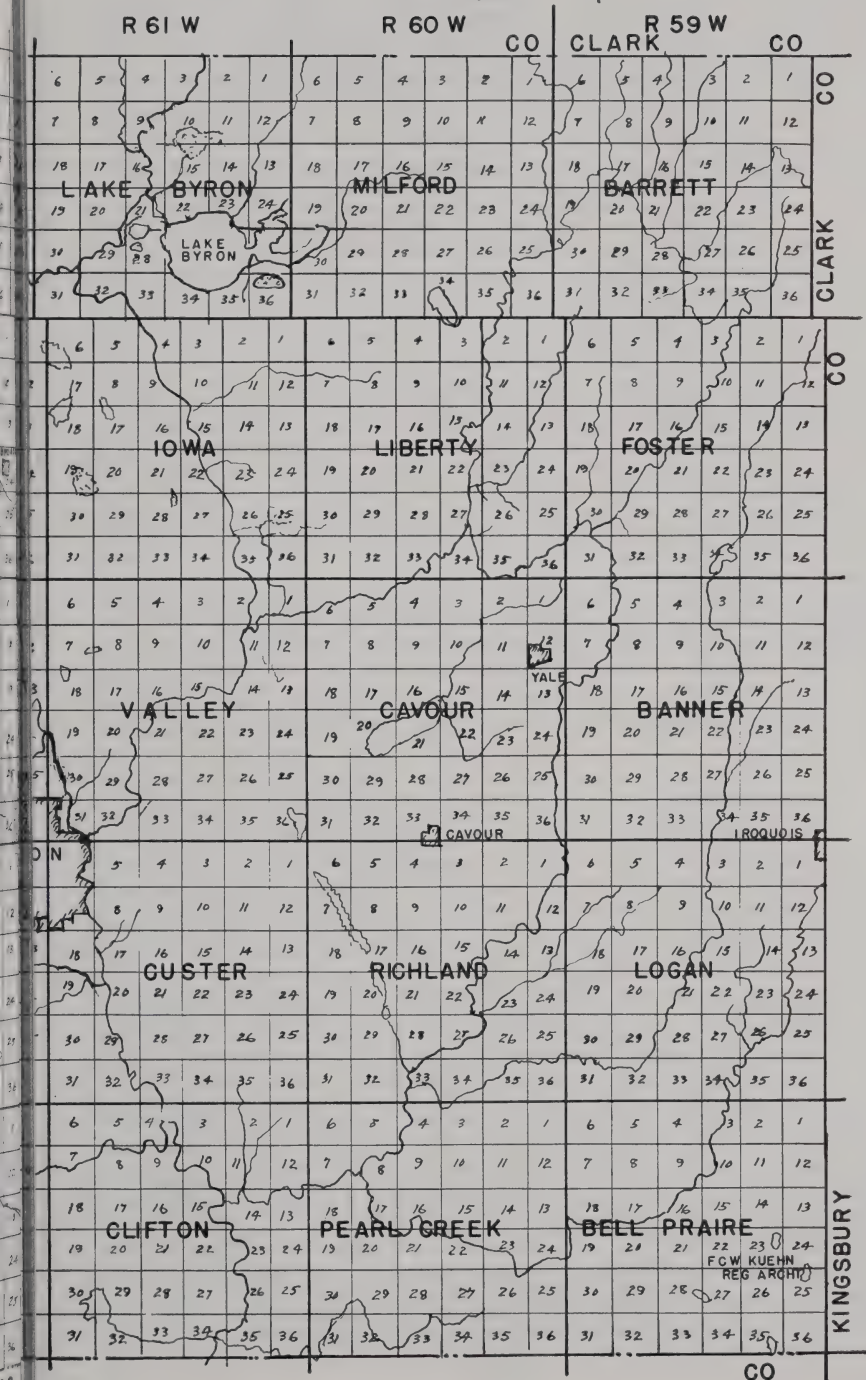
"My cows had to stay in the sheds for six weeks," said William Newton who had a dairy that served several generations. "I had 40 cows. I had a time handing down milk through upstairs windows. Sometimes I stood on the porch roof and a lady would open the upper sash of the window."

When the snow melted in the spring, the roads were frightful. A horse would flounder—one foot up and the others down. The Miners kept a boat tied to their porch for seven weeks. Snow was found as late as June 19, the date of the Broadland picnic. Rabbits had eaten the tops of the trees.



COUNTY

MAP NO 3A
KUEHN'S
HURON, S. DAK.



CO

The flood started about March 18. The ice gorge in Cain Creek broke and flooded the banks. By March 20, the farmers were anchoring their buildings, and train service stopped. Water stood from six inches to two feet deep on the streets. When it froze, children skated from Third to Tenth Street on Iowa Avenue. By March 30, the river had flooded, and one could see only the tops of hay stacks. Nine bridges crashed. From 6:30 p.m., March 30 to 9:30 a.m., March 31, the water rose 11 inches. Starting April 1, there was continuous rain for 24 hours. Dozens of bridges were carried away with an estimated damage of \$20,000 in the county. Along with others, the cemetery bridge drifted down the stream.

In Huron men tried to dynamite against the piles to break the ice. Dead fish, some three feet long, were packed like sardines along the banks of the Jim which was half a mile wide and 24 feet deep at the bridge. The railroad bridge was kept clear of ice by a gang of men breaking and steering the huge cakes of ice into the main channel. The only visible thing at the race track on John Ward's farm, which extended from 12th Street to 18th Street, was the roof of the judge's stand. The track could not be seen until April 26.

Hand cars, teams, and sailboats took the place of trains. Forty sacks of mail had to be taken from Wolsey to Miller by team. Several men came on a hand car from Redfield to the James Valley Junction where a switch engine met them. G. W. Abell came from Aberdeen to Redfield on a hand car. Where no vehicle could travel, people had to wade or swim. In ice water up to his neck, Art Joy had to wade across Shue Creek to get home from the school he was teaching. Fred Tobin wrote that they had to leave their team at Schuylers', several miles from Huron, and carry groceries back on foot over a narrow bridge.

A sailboat brought passengers from Mitchell. Nothing could be seen of the wagon bridge over the river. Huron was losing trade to Cavour and Iroquois until the businessmen paid Clarence Bowe to bring farmers across the river in his boat. Hand cars under the management of Myron Graves took people across too. Jean Urquhart, who taught northeast of Huron, had to walk across the railroad bridge to get to Huron. The water was over five inches higher than the high water mark of 1881. Because of flooded basements, schools in Huron were closed. On April 22, three trains came from Watertown on the Great Northern—the first in a long time.

Getting fuel was one of the problems of early days. Many used twisted hay or cow chips. Some had straw burners—boiler-like containers which were placed over fire boxes. One container was filled while the other one was used. The fire would sometimes last several hours depending upon the wind.

"The worst part of those straw burners was that they would give a puff and everything would be covered with ashes," said Fred Kurtz. "My wife had the gravy made and dinner ready when the

fire gave a puff. Doug Adams laughed and said we needed some potash anyway."

"We spent our evenings twisting hay and stripping feathers," said Henry Hein. "Our hands were sore, cut by the tall slough grass. We twisted it, then folded it in the center and tucked one end under the other." Harry Marone and Lucy Campbell both told of their clever home-made presses for using Russian thistles which they claim made good fuel.

"You could tell what people used for fuel when they walked into church," said Mrs. Sara Thompson. "Flax straw had a much better odor than hay. Some clothes smelled like an old pipe."

Many had to rely on cow chips for fuel. Mrs. Laura Seeley spoke of going six miles to gather them in a two-tier wagon box. Cellars, sheds, and available spaces were filled with them in the fall. Chips from livery stables were used for fuel to furnish light in Huron.

The pioneers worked long, hard hours. Whole families toiled in the fields, putting up hay, picking corn, or doing other field work. Norma Martin Gilbert speaks of her mother milking 20 cows each night and morning and doing heavy farm work besides the housework. Since there were no fences the first years, the children herded the cattle or sheep. Boys only 11 or 12 did a man's work.

"I broke oxen when only 11," said Henry Hein. "I got \$10 a month for working for Opus Wilson. That helped with the family expenses. Boys never thought of using the money for themselves."

"We all worked hard," said Mrs. K. B. Anderson. "Mother and father dug the well together, using a windlass. I drove cattle or hogs five miles without being tired. I went barefoot from early spring until late fall—my feet so tough I didn't feel the rose thorns."

"When I was 13, I plowed with oxen," said Mrs. Louis Meyer who lived in Foster Township. "Another of my jobs was to turn cow chips with a pitchfork so they would dry. I recall twisting hay, too. When I went to school, I wrapped my feet with gunny sacks and put big overshoes over them."

"My father died when I was 11 and I was the main support of my mother and nine children," said Jake Schneller. "I got up at 4 a.m. and tended to about 35 head of cattle and horses. Then I started plowing with oxen. I finally broke one to ride. Boys didn't have much chance to go to school. I started working with a threshing crew when 16."

Neighbors shared work too. Settlers went miles to help someone in trouble. In case of illness, they left their own work and shared whatever they had. The story is told of a minister who walked from Huron to Wessington Springs to preach. On the way home, he stopped to chat with friends. They were having such a hard time, he gave them the \$2 he had received for preaching.

The pioneers thought nothing of walking miles carrying heavy loads. Mrs. George Oerlline did laundry work for 50c a day and often carried washing up the track six miles. August Dubro, Sr., carried a 50-pound sack of flour 23 miles. Mrs. A. H. Schultz speaks of her father carrying, on his back, part of the lumber for his house. Some considered it lazy to ride, especially if they drove oxen.

Mrs. Flora Kaster recalls that after walking 22 miles to see her sister, she won a corn planting race with her brother-in-law who was planting corn with a hand planter. Mrs. Martin Kamenz said her sister often used to walk 23 miles to spend week-ends at home.

The philosophy of the pioneers is expressed in "Live or Die, Brother Hyde," by Rev. William J. Hyde. He tells of visiting a pioneer woman whose cat jumped into the churn while she was making butter. Patiently, she removed the cat and, wiping the butter off into the churn, remarked, "It will all come out in the buttermilk."

CHAPTER 6

Schools and Newspapers

They gave birth to better living—
Their sorrow but a school of hope and faith.

In spite of hardships, many things of lasting value were accomplished. Reading the old papers, one realizes how young and gay the people were—how activated by the promises of a new country—how ambitious to develop the resources they found—how determined to make their dreams come true. Even the false fronts of their stores were symbols of their willingness to make a good showing with little material aid.

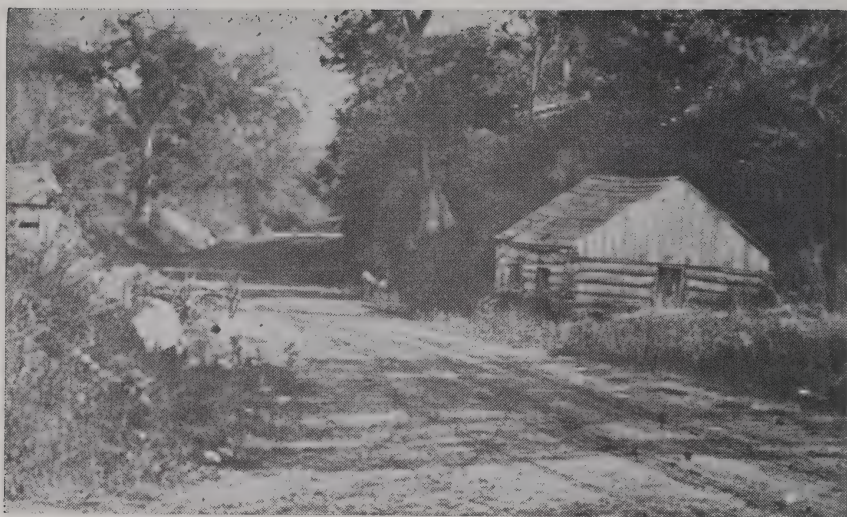
One is amazed at the adjustment all settlers made to the limitless prairies. To the women it was appalling to look upon the trackless lands—not knowing where and how food might be provided for their children. It is easy to imagine the silence they must have felt and the solitude they must have endured so far from the world from which they had come. The fellowship of suffering gave them a peculiar sense of security and dependence upon God. Only the pioneers know how much a neighbor can mean and how much determination it takes to start life in a new country.

Almost immediately schools and churches were started and served as community centers. The first school in Huron was in a small building on Wisconsin Avenue between First and Second Streets. Watson Weed taught during the first part of 1880 and Arthur Blunt, the latter part. In 1880 there were 15 pupils; by 1881, 137—a fact that disturbed the settlers since there was room for only 54 even with a new room attached.

"We came to Huron in September, 1880," wrote Nellie Botsford, later Mrs. L. O. Brockway. "Each pupil brought his chair and a dry-goods box for a desk. My father, Otis Botsford, made some desks later."

In 1882 a new brick school costing \$9000 was built at Illinois Avenue and Fifth Street. There were so many children then that a former saloon on Kansas and First Street was also used with Flora Fuller as teacher. Mrs. Sara Thompson recalled the watery cellar with its supply of lizards with which the boys tormented the girls. The boys' mischief went too far when they left the trap door open and Ed Dinneen had to fish Ina Hotelling out of the mire.

The highest grades were taught by F. P. Bartlett in a frame building used at times as stores of L. B. Chalfant, L. C. Burney, John Markham, and T. J. Harvey. The primary room, taught by



This schoolhouse, built near Vermillion, is said to be the first permanent one built in the Dakotas. The men of Company A, under the direction of Captain Nelson Miner built the school house and the parents of his wife furnished the logs. Six of the Miner children and six of the Jordan family went there to school.

Hattie Sterling, later Mrs. George Love, met in the first school building. This was used until the latter part of 1882 when it became a real estate office.

In 1883 Mary McDonnell had a private school for which she charged \$1 a month. At that time there were in the public schools 367 pupils, only 50 of whom were under 21. From July, 1883, until April, 1884, 46 schoolhouses were built in the county with an average cost of \$725. There were 55 teachers and 1500 pupils in the county with 997 in Huron. The average salary for teachers was \$36 a month. Evidently, women didn't get as much as men. O. A. Parks, an early teacher in Iowa Township, received \$30 and his wife, only \$26. Salaries depended too on the type of certificate. Mrs. William Davis said she received \$35 when she had a first grade certificate; \$30 for second, and \$25 for third.

There was a great scarcity of well-qualified teachers those first years. Several told of getting certificates to teach without having had much education. "Although I went to school only three years, I passed the teachers' examination at 16 years of age but never taught," said Mrs. K. B. Anderson.

Others who passed the examination by hard work without much schooling were David McCoy and O. W. Coursey. The latter said he used the same book until he was 16, then Sanford Schuyler let him go on from where he left off the year before, and he passed the

teachers' examination that fall. Lucian Moody went to school only five years. However, his father taught him at home. He later was graduated from West Point and was connected with the National Chinese government from 1946 to 1949.

Of all the early families, the Daniel McCarthys and the Martin Issenhuths furnished the most teachers—seven McCarthys and six Issenhuths. Two teachers had a long record of service. The late Hattie Daugherty Place, who lived to be past 96, started teaching when 16 and was still teaching when past 80. In 1884, when she taught in Nance Township, there was no money in the treasury, and her warrants for \$25 a month were discounted from 10 to 15 per cent at the banks. She could have traded them for groceries at face value. Ella Lawrence of Milford Township taught for 40 years—her highest salary, \$45. In the Beadle County files are at least a dozen diaries kept by her family—some as early as 1866—also an account book of that year and school notes taken in 1874.

Many schools had three months of school in the spring and three in the fall. According to a history of Beadle County published in 1889, it was compulsory for all children from 10 to 14 years of age to go to school at least 12 weeks each year, six of which were to be consecutive. There was no course of study and most textbooks were those brought from other states. In the late 1880's United States history, temperance, physiology, and hygiene were added to the "three Rs". A state law required the teachers to teach the effects of alcohol and tobacco with the same thoroughness as arithmetic and geography. Every chapter in the hygiene books ends with their effects. Ed Issenhuth, the first teacher in Cavour, and later a legislator, introduced a bill for teaching music in public schools.

Children made great sacrifices to go to school. Henry Licht was one of them. He speaks of his father having made the wooden shoes which he wore while walking eight miles to the Wolsey school. W. J. Haigh, whose father owned the first frame house in Cavour Township, speaks of walking four miles when only six years of age. Several speak of having had schools in their homes; among them, Edward Lynch who said they had no school for two years, then they had three months in their home. Lawrence DuBois wrote that after the cyclone destroyed their school, they held school in a room in their home.

The low cost of running schools is shown in township records. The Dearborn Township files show the cost of schools in 1885 as \$492.70; in 1886, \$835.04. One report in 1887 gives the following: "Webster's dictionary, the only help of any kind; school room too well ventilated for winter days; building blown off foundation; whole room needs renovating from the effects of last election." Most of the reports gave only a few pieces of furniture such as a few chairs, a stove, a few blackboards, a half-worn broom, a water pail and a few erasers. One reported a hatchet without an edge, another a small piece of cloth for cleaning the blackboard. Regardless of the low cost of the

buildings, quite a few of the early country schools are still standing. J. W. Schollian speaks of hauling rocks with oxen for the foundations of several near Wessington.

In 1883 five schoolhouses were built in one school district which included Fairfield, Broadland, and Iowa Townships. Since the bid of J. C. Hatfield, \$925, was the lowest, all five schools were built at that price. The one known as the Johnson or Nash School is now used as a garage four miles west of Huron. One may still see the square nails in the well-built walls. Some school boards spent all their money on buildings and had none left for equipment. Mrs. Lafe Whitney said that this was the case at the Broadland school where they had to sit on planks and had no desks.

In 1885, the year in which the Utah School was built at a cost of \$10,000, the teachers were getting \$65 a month. In 1886, two rooms, 25 by 35, one above the other, were planned on the west side of the school at a cost of \$75. In 1889 it was reported that there were 121 schoolhouses erected at an average cost of between \$400 and \$700. At that time there were, in Huron, 13 teachers with a salary of \$32 a month and a superintendent, then called a professor. That year there was an estimated population of 4000, 809 of whom were between seven and 20 years of age with a total of 680 in school. Professor A. M. Rowe reported 72 in high school, 220 in the grammar school and 388 in the primary. He said the air was full of restlessness because of parents not staying continuously on claims. At that time Huron expected to become the capital and although plans were made to increase the Illinois building, the money was used for the capital contest instead. Two other buildings were used, one of which is now the Fullerton store and the other across the street east.

Mrs. Ed Wilson taught in one of these buildings and recalls her trials trying to keep her 52 pupils from "snitching" apples from the barrels in front of near-by stores. A picture of her pupils shows well-dressed children. Another school was held in a bank building that stood at 405 Dakota Avenue South, where the Sears Building now stands. A building on the west side of town, known as the Swede Church, was used as a school for a short time. Several recall going to school in a building which in 1961 houses Leighton's pool hall.

In the Beadle County files is a summary of the high school graduates from 1887 to 1908—an average of 12. There were only two graduates in 1890—Sanford Schuyler and Harry Steele. Mrs. A. M. Urquhart was the first teacher to acquire her complete education in Beadle County.

In 1883 the Reverends H. P. Carson and W. S. Peterson were instrumental in starting a university at Pierre at a cost of \$3000. In 1898, Pierre University was removed to Huron, a memorable event. Board, room, and tuition were about the same in Huron as they had been in Pierre where board was \$2.46 a week and tuition \$30 a year in the preparatory department and \$45 in college. The second annual

Pierre catalog gives \$3 a year for furnished room; unfurnished, free. However, books, music, lights, fuel and washing were extra. In Huron, tuition was \$12 a term with 10 per cent discount for a year's tuition in advance. The struggle to secure a building and to start the college in Huron serves as a good example of the cooperation and persistent sacrifice of the residents of the state. Under the leadership of John L. Pyle, Huron raised \$5000 for the purchase of the Royal Hotel which was said to originally have cost over \$50,000.

In a letter from Mrs. French, widow of the late Dr. Calvin French, first president, one reads, "John Pyle, Fred Kent, and Fred Wilcox were the three instrumental in moving the college from Pierre. I remember the first dinner in the hotel which first housed the college. After chapel, dishes and food were delivered. The new cook said, 'Why, we can never eat dinner here.' I thought of the parents and new students who had driven for miles.

"I said, 'We have to have dinner here.' We all helped. It was the same in raising money. We needed \$100,000. When Mrs. Ralph Voorhees gave the first \$15,000 for the girls' dormitory, Mr. French phoned me. I remember, I said, 'I believe the women of our town and in our state will give the balance.' They did."

By 1899, there were 115 in the college department and 35 taking music. The Y. M. C. A. lectures were much enjoyed and oratory was stressed. In the Huron papers entire orations were printed.

When plans were made for the new college building, the Ladies' College Association mailed letters and raised \$8000 for trees, shrubbery, and walks. One day the classes were dismissed so that students could move stones that had been unloaded in the wrong place.

Huron has the honor of having had the first South Dakota Educational Association meeting in 1884 with State Superintendent W. H. H. Beadle as president. He served until 1888 and again in 1909.

Newspapers meant much to the early settlers. Through them the pioneers felt a part of the new land, an important factor in the movement for statehood, for good government, and for anything that would help to better conditions. Papers kept the settlers in touch with the world they had left behind for the new venture. They set the pattern for politics, reporting speeches, votes, party conflicts, new ideas, and the challenge of life in a new country—barren, yet full of possibilities; dry, yet with hopes of irrigation. Some papers were subsidized by townsite companies, the main purpose being to attract settlers.

The large number of publications in the early times might be surprising. Final proof notices paid for most of the newspapers. News was secondary. An April 2, 1881, newspaper has an account of many pre-emptions being forfeited with 30 days allowed for repeal. Prices of land varied from a pair of boots to \$200, depending upon the settler's faith in Dakota.

In pioneer days, not over half of the paper was printed at the local place. The rest of it, known as the patent "outsides" or "insides," was printed in Chicago or elsewhere. This part was secured for about the actual cost of the paper and printing, since the print company made its profit from the 100 inches of advertising which they received. One sees many advertisements of baking powder and patent medicines such as Lydia Pinkham's Compound. Huron papers also carried many local advertisements in the early 1880s but in the 1890s there were hardly any. There were over 40 lawyers and numerous land agents. In some places, the local businessman who advertised his wares expected the publisher to take at least a third of his fee in goods. When readers didn't have cash to pay for the paper, they traded produce.

The first paper in Huron, March 17, 1880, *The Beadle County Settler*, edited by John Cain, was changed that August to *The Huron Weekly Times*. In 1882 it became *The Huron Daily and Weekly Times*. The first daily and the oldest in central Dakota, *The Dakota Daily Leader*, was first published June 20, 1882, by E. T. Cressey. The third paper, *The Huron Tribune*, changed to *The Dakota Weekly Huronite* in 1882 and on January 4, 1886, became *The Daily Huronite* with Augustine Davis, John Longstaff, and H. E. Crouch, first editors.

In 1883, there were seven weekly, one monthly, and two daily papers in the county in which there was a population of about 11,000. On April 5 of that year, a special edition of 10,000 copies of *The Huronite* was printed for one cent each.

The Dakota Farmer, edited in 1883 by William Boothroyd, was later edited by W. F. T. Bushnell, a composer and musician who had toured the United States. It was moved to Aberdeen in 1893 where it still is published.

Some claimed that the early papers were poorly distributed. Perhaps the temptation to read them on the way to the rightful owner was too great.

The news in the early papers was reported quite differently. Thefts, law violations, and runaways were common news. In Huron, a law was passed forbidding teams from going over five miles an hour. Wedding gifts were written up in great detail, telling the articles and donors. Lengthy tributes were given in death accounts.

In the Huron Library is a detailed account of 50 fictitious filings of John Cameron, a Sioux Falls banker who was said to have had, from April to October, 1880, a newspaper, *Dakota Central*, in connection with his work near Huron. John Cain helped to expose and convict him.

CHAPTER 7

Churches

The echoes of their fervent prayers resound,
"The sod on which we step is holy ground."

Churches were started as soon as the settlers came. The first religious body in Huron, the Mission School, was organized in Parker Hall, June 27, 1880. This union Sunday School met several years with Edwin Wheeler as superintendent. With an average attendance of over 100 one year, it helped during the period when the churches were being built. In the files is a certificate of attendance of Andrew Printup of Theresa Township.

In the fall of 1881 two churches were completed—the Baptist and the Episcopal—the latter in a record time of three weeks and three days. On October 9, the Episcopalians decided to buy lots, 110 by 165, at Kansas and Fourth Streets. Three days later, workmen donated their services and built a church which seated 100 people. They finished November 5 and held services the next day. The bell, presented by the Chicago & North Western Railway Company, was the first in Huron.

The Rev. M. Hoyt, who had preached the first sermon in Dakota at Yankton in 1858, served the Episcopalian Church in Huron. In the Beadle County files is a picture of Grace Chapel which stood where the parish house now stands. Mrs. J. C. Klemme, formerly Mrs. E. L. Choate, a granddaughter of Dr. Hoyt, told of her life at the rectory built in 1882. "It was so cold the eggs froze while I was beating them. We had to carry all our drinking water from a well at Third and Wisconsin."

At the time of Dr. Hoyt's death in 1888, he had founded and built 25 churches and had served continuously for 55 years as a minister. The three windows over the altar in the present church were given in memory of him. Ted Edwards, a great grandson, said that Dr. Hoyt started the first Masonic Lodge in Dakota—also the first chartered lodge—and was its first master. A Bible which he presented them has been in almost constant use until a few years ago. At the suggestion of John Foasberg, and in memory of Dr. Hoyt's work, the Bible was exhibited around the state at which time a large sum of money was raised for the Shriners' Hospital.

The first Episcopalian Church was sold to the German Congregationalists about 1886. It was later used by the Lutherans for several years before being moved to John Ward's farm in 1904. In 1887 the Rev. Charles Potter helped to plan a building of Gothic style made

of stone at a cost of \$6000—the building in use in 1960. Mrs. Freeman Fenn tells of her father, Charley May, helping to haul rocks from his farm for the church.

Some of the other members of this early church were the families of Willis Davis, J. W. Campbell, Dr. G. W. Moody, George Love, J. W. Shannon, S. A. Mosher, F. E. Stevens, George Armstrong, George Sterling, and E. L. Choate. Georgia and Eva Ambrose and Eva Cain sang in the choir and Mrs. D. A. Kelsey was president of the first guild.

On July 25, 1880, the Baptists met at the depot with Rev. George Cressey as pastor, then organized August 23 at the Wright House with 10 present. They met at various places such as Risdon's upper room, Houghton's hall, and the schoolhouse until their church was finished November 20, 1881. Their 28x58 building, valued at \$2500 and seating 300, stood at the corner of Kansas and Third Streets. The debt of \$500 was nearly all pledged the day of dedication. The paper reported each gift, even to 10c. Mrs. G. H. De Voe led the choir and played the organ. At the age of 12, Mrs. C. S. Laughlin, then Martha Cressey, sang in the choir and recalls that many from other churches helped until their churches were organized. Among the early workers were the families of Edwin Wheeler, Rev. T. M. Shanafelt, superintendent of Baptist churches in Dakota, S. S. Cool, George M. Miller, M. F. Wright, P. B. Lyon, Steve Ramer, G. W. Abell, D. Whipple, L. E. Goodell, John Allen, John Baldwin, Albert Shaw, E. T. Cressey, Ole Olson, Frank Neff, Henry McGarvey, Leander Batchelder, C. C. McEwen, A. T. James, Eva Gilday, and Cornelia Burnley (Nellie). Some of the early pastors were the Reverends Elisha English, J. P. Styles, J. W. Davis, S. D. Works, George Starring, and Cornelius Malley.

Mrs. Mike Dinneen wrote of the early meetings of the Catholics in the parlor of their hotel, the Dakota House. "Father Robert Haire rode horseback from Aberdeen for our first meetings. By 1882 we had to use the dining-room too. Father Haire often walked long distances to visit the sick and came here hungry and completely worn out. When we built our church, we had a debt of \$280. We had to make arrangement for payment before the carpenters would give us the key. I finally signed a note for it so we could hold services."

Mrs. Sara Thompson, formerly Sara Muraine, described how men brought rocks from the country for the foundation which her father, Edward Muraine, laid. There was only one paid man, the supervisor for the frame building, 30x50, which was finished in the fall of 1883 at a cost of \$2500. Several years later, the parsonage was bought for \$3000. The Chicago & North Western had given lot 9, block 13 for the church, and Father Haire raised money to buy lots 7 and 8 for the rectory.

Several speak of the work of Father Mahoney who came in 1884. Mrs. Thompson recalled that in 1885 she was a member of the first class of nine children to receive Holy Communion. Others told of

his holding mass in Liberty Township as he sat on a wagon seat with a canvas sheltering the altar where the penitent knelt on the ground. A stone, marked 1884, was placed at the proposed site of St. William's Church, but since the land was not available, the location was changed to section 13 where services still are held.

In 1885, \$100 was subscribed for a church in Cavour and \$700 for St. William's Church. Father S. Maddock served the Huron and other churches from 1886 to 1891. Other priests were Father Charles Brown, Father Nolan, Father J. J. Shea, and Rev. Msgr. D. F. Desmond who served from 1897 until 1939.

Some of the early members include the families of Richard Tobin, John McDonnell, John Fleming, John Hanley, Martin Issenhuth, William Farrell, Joe Daum, John Nolan, John Higgins, James McWeeny, Mike Morrissey, Joe Breen, Joe Malone, G. Leepe, John McMahon, Jerry McNerney, and Sheldon Osborn. Windows costing \$15,000 were dedicated in 1952 in memory of some of the first members such as John Hanley, Mike Dinneen, and Wm. Farrell. Mrs. James O'Brien of Cavour was the first child baptized in the Cavour church and Mary Vaughn, the first in Huron.

Rev. A. B. Smart who came in 1881 helped to organize 15 Methodists. They had been meeting with the Presbyterians and Baptists since their first meeting in 1880 at the depot. In January, 1883, the building committee, Mayor T. F. Nicholl, A. B. Bloodgood, W. H. H. Jones, and L. S. Hazen, drew plans for a building, 40x80 with two wings 16x20.

In late summer, 1883, Chaplain McCabe took part in laying the cornerstone. The settlers gathered at the place where the pulpit was to be and sang hymns under the direction of W. F. T. Bushnell. Flags marked the corners of the lot, donated by the Chicago & North Western Railroad Company, and said to have been worth \$1000. After the singing, the ladies took turns breaking the sod and thus started the preparations for the largest church in Dakota which seated 1000 people and by 1891, had cost \$25,000. The period during the erection was very trying and those in charge made personal sacrifices to pay the carpenters who refused to work without regular pay.

October 4, 1883, was a memorable day for the community and state. A concert was given by a 100-voice choir when the Dakota Methodist Conference met in Huron with 100 ministers present. Soon after this, a 1500-pound bell arrived.

The church was formally opened February 3, 1884, and dedicated February 1, 1885. Familiar names mentioned in that period include the families of William Wade, organist, I. J. Mouser, L. T. Graves, E. C. Walton, John Miller, F. M. Heaton, Dr. F. O. Sale, L. H. Starkey, D. A. Foote, C. L. Culver, C. E. Bryant, Clara Brumwell, Ida May Bowe, E. B. Chalfant, Effie and Nellie Kimes, Anna and Ella Little, J. C. Klemme, E. T. Langley, and Lewis Bloodgood. W. F. T. Bush-

nell served as superintendent of the Sunday School and choir leader a number of years.

One of the ministers was Rev. A. F. Thompson, a brother of T. S. Thompson of Custer Township. Another, Rev. C. B. Clark, father of the late poet, Badger Clark, served from 1893 to 1898. Other early ministers were the Reverends W. H. Hoadley, grandfather of Leonard Davis, J. B. Seymore, A. W. Atkinson, W. H. Dresser, and W. J. Calsee. Rev. Dresser left his family Bible to the Beadle County Historical Society. Mrs. P. O. Bunt, daughter of W. H. H. Jones presented a watch, the first one in Medina County, Ohio, and first owned by the grandfather of W. H. H. Jones. The Bible and watch are now in the State Fair Pioneer Museum.

Edwin Wheeler wrote of the first meeting of the Presbyterians in his unfinished store. "May 6, 1880, was the date of the first religious meeting in Huron when 50 men—no women then—sat on piles of shingles and listened to Rev. M. E. Chapin, a Presbyterian missionary. He came at regular intervals until June 20, when Rev. W. S. Peterson arrived." Nellie Carter, later Mrs. Charles Barrows, reported they met in their movable home part of the time.

In the fall of 1881, they started their church at the corner of Wisconsin and Fourth Streets on a lot given by the railroad company. The church was dedicated, debt-free, July 30, 1882, at a cost of a little over \$2900. On March 11, 1883, it became the first self-supporting Presbyterian church in Dakota Presbytery. In 1886, an addition of 28 feet was added on the north side of the original building which was 30x44 feet.

Among the first members were the proprietors of the Depot Hotel, the Fred Kents, who reserved three pews for their guests whom they always invited to church. Mr. Kent served 22 years as superintendent of the Sunday School. J. S. Oliver, superintendent of the Dakota Division of the Chicago & North Western, and Mrs. Oliver were active for 17 years. Mrs. Oliver organized the Women's Synodical Society for Missions and served as its president 15 years.

Among early settlers still living in Huron and who have been members for a length of time are Mesdames A. M. Urquhart, Percy Phillips, J. C. Burns, Ed Wilson, D. A. Medbery, Carl Moe, Miss Anna Payson, and Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Hill. Among those longest in service were Mrs. C. N. McIlvaine, treasurer of the Ladies' Association 58 years; E. H. Grant, ruling elder, 42 years; Hubert Ketelle, pastor, 30 years and pastor emeritus since 1942; Coe I. Crawford, trustee 39 years; and John I. Pasek, clerk of session 32 years.

Other early members were the families of William L. Bliss, clerk of the session for years; T. J. Harvey, James Worrell, Frank Webb, David Smith, Clark Osborn, Sanford Suits, J. W. Wilson, John Carter, Ernest Lyman, H. S. Plummer, T. D. Archer, Milo Booth, J. W. McKenzie, Jacob Schuyler, Henry King, John L. Pyle, Henry Schaller, E. M. Thomas, S. N. West, and William Waibel. Early ministers includ-

ed the Rev. J. B. Pomeroy who served from August 1, 1881, to Nov. 1, 1885, and the Reverends David McCaslin, A. Z. McCogney, John Marshall, John Jones, and Richard Van der Las. One of the leaders in the church was Dr. H. P. Carson, the first stated clerk of the Synod who held that office for 45 years. He helped organize Scotland Academy which merged with Huron College. He organized many churches, was editor of the Presbyterian Chronicler for four years, and was on the board of directors of Huron College and the Omaha Theological Seminary for a number of years.

The first steps toward organizing the Congregational Church were taken when a group met in Campbell Hall March 2, 1884. Some of those active were T. M. Jeffris, Fred M. Wilcox, Jere Kimball, superintendent of the Union Sunday School Society, Bayard Beach, J. B. Weeks, D. W. Goodnow, Charles M. Harrison, C. Y. Durand, and O. A. Cheney. Wilcox Chapel of the present church was named in honor of the Wilcox family.

Services were first held in May at Parker Hall; after that, in Campbell. When some seemed worried about the future hopes for a church, Mr. Jeffris made the significant remark, "Who will do the praying in the new church?" Faith and prayer prevailed and by the time the church was built, there was no debt, and they had had no help from the Congregational Union.

A communion set, a gift of Mrs. David Jeffris, mother of T. M., arrived in time for the first communion service July 27, 1884. This was used until Rev. Charles Daley, superintendent of Sunday Schools, presented a set. The first set was given to the Willow Lake church.

The organization of the church was completed with a recognition service, September 7, 1884, when J. Spencer Voorhees was ordained pastor and 44 united with the church. Among the charter members who have relatives here are the families of Bayard Beach, C. H. Bonesteel, and Con Huntley.

The cornerstone of the church was laid April 28, 1885, at which time a Bible, a church hymnal, and a manual were deposited. The new church was used for the first time August 23, 1885, and was dedicated September 13. In July, 1887, a seven-room parsonage was built at the corner of 8th and Dakota Avenue, later moved to the next lot west. The first pastor to occupy it, Rev. H. S. Mills, stayed until October, 1890. There were many changes of ministers during the first years, Rev. B. H. Burtt having stayed the longest—from July, 1891, until 1898, and again from 1917 until 1927. Mrs. Burtt, a musician, took a prominent part in entertainments. When the Burtt children were small, Miss Louie Strong, later Mrs. T. J. Wood, took over their mother's pupils and taught from the time she came in 1896 until 1958, often working nine hours a day. In 1898, Rev. Burtt was followed by Rev. Charles Brand who served until 1901.

In 1886, the church purchased the first pipe organ in Huron. Miss Addie Wheeler played for the church services for six years. A piano,

presented in 1900 by Mrs. T. M. Jeffris, was in use for many years.

Early members were the families of Asher Pay, B. Rowley, A. J. Holbrook, Frank Oviatt, L. C. Tredway, George Longstaff, Mrs. Carrie Meyers, J. H. Cogswell, C. D. and W. B. Joy, Thomas Lauters, Wm. H. Bliss, Charles Parke, John Clickner, M. D. Whisman, Stephan Pulling, John H. King, Fred Rollins, T. H. Null, Carrie Smith, Miss Little, an organist, M. Rowe, and Professor Hull. Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Beach and Mr. and Mrs. Asher Pay served in many capacities for years.

The Forefathers' Supper, held a few days before Christmas, was started in 1887 and continued for forty or more years. A program followed the bountiful 50c meal.

Dr. W. H. Thrall, state superintendent of Congregational churches from 1894 until 1921, was a great help in supplying the pulpit between pastorates. His brother-in-law, Rev. E. W. Jenney, and his family, here from 1898 until 1900, were popular as lecturers on their missionary work in Turkey where they had spent ten years. Rev. Jenney was one of the seven Congregational ministers who in 1881 helped found churches and colleges in Dakota. They turned the sod for those at Yankton and Redfield.

Since the early records of the Lutheran Church burned at the time of the Star Restaurant fire in 1892, very few details are available. The first meetings were centered around the family of John Gunderson, father of Mrs. John Melum. She has kept a scrapbook with pictures of the first pastor; the first couple married—the Albert Hendricksons; also a pen sketch, done by Clara Gunderson, of the church bought from the Episcopalians.

Since Mrs. Gunderson had the only sewing machine—one she had brought from Norway—the Ladies' Aid met in her home. She was the first president and Mrs. Hendrickson, the first after the churches combined. Rev. Tolburg and Rev. Henderlie, who both stayed at the Gunderson home, were just changing places at the time of the 1888 blizzard. Rev. Satre came from De Smet in 1889. Other members during the early period were the families of Louis Melum, John Esterburg, M. Carstenson, Jens Jensen, Peter Nelson, Thomas Thompson, Nels Storkson, Milo Loomis, Ole Anderson, Otto Jacobson, John and Pete Matson, Theresa Oerlline, Julius Billstrom, John Ebert, Ed Danielson, Peter Johnson, August Retschlag and James Larson.

The Christian Church first met in a bank building in 1883, and the Adventists held their first service in 1886. The Salvation Army originally met in an old saloon building in 1885. The first Corps opened in March, 1897, with Lieutenant Thomas Grass serving as its first officer. A fellow officer was Brigadier Paul Robb. John May served through 1898. Later Army meetings were held upstairs over what is now the Fullerton store. Vernon Weir, an early member, said the work was much the same then as it is today.

There were 21 Sunday Schools said to have been organized in the

county in 1882 with 70 teachers and 600 pupils during the same year. At first people met in homes, later in schoolhouses. Rev. W. H. Hoadley preached the first sermon in Carlyle Township in Henry Hebron's home. Mrs. A. J. Drake, wife of the Congregational minister in Iroquois from 1885 until 1890, wrote of their starting out with a horse and buggy, then she would conduct meetings in schoolhouses while he walked on to hold other services. Even Logan Center had 27 members. Mrs. Drake wrote of a deacon reading a sermon in one place while she and her husband had services other places. An acre of teams sometimes surrounded the churches. In her book is a picture of the arrival at services of a crippled lady, seated upon a stone boat. Members often came with their feet tied in sacks—no shoes or overshoes. Living six months over Landon's store was a prelude to living two years in a hole under the then unfinished church which now serves the Catholics.

The Rev. Ottmar Cloeter, uncle of several in the county, was the first minister in the Wolsey Lutheran Church.

The financial struggle of these early ministers was well told by both Mrs. Drake and Rev. F. W. Leyhe who came to Wolsey in 1895 and served until his death in 1957. Starting with only \$13 with which to build a church in Iroquois, the members held bees for hauling stones, for lathing, and shingling. On an expected salary of \$400, Rev. and Mrs. Drake in one year had charge of the building of five churches. Their members often surprised them with furniture such as a lounge made of a dry-goods box covered with print that matched the curtains and the covering of a barrel which served as a vegetable container as well as a lamp stand.

The first year Wolsey was to pay Rev. Leyhe \$14 and Yale to give him \$18 for a half year. Onida, Highmore, and Blunt members gave him canned goods. Later, he was to receive \$150 a year from each church—the ones at Yale and Wolsey—but people didn't have money. His trips from Wolsey to Yale every other Sunday sometimes were hazardous. When roads were impassable, he had to walk from Huron to Wolsey. The first year he traveled 6,432 miles with a horse and buggy; other times he rode seated on a chicken crate in Cloeter's lumber wagon or in John Kuntz's header box. Once when drenched by a sudden rainstorm, he was forced to borrow the wedding suit of Carl Maass for his church services.

The first child baptized in Yale was the daughter of John Musolf; the first in Wolsey, the daughter of Albert Oestrich. The land near Yale was donated by Carl Kuehl. Only two carpenters were employed, the other work was done by the parishioners. More than 1025 people were baptized and over 600 confirmed during the 52 years. The settlers made a great sacrifice to get to church. Mrs. Henry Kohlmeyer walked 13 miles and the Licht children eight. Children often went horseback to get to the Lutheran school. Adolph Frieze speaks of studying his lesson as he rode five miles.

The Presbyterians and Methodists in Wolsey had a union Sunday



Sod church built across county line from Rayville, Pearl Creek Township.

School in one of the stores. Rev. Edwin Brown served from August 2, 1884, until 1905. The first chapel now is used as a lodge hall, and for the American Legion. During the early period the Presbyterians and Methodists worshipped in the Wessington Methodist Church, built in 1883.

One of the most interesting churches was one made of sod, which stood in Sanborn County, just across the road from Pearl Creek Township. There were two rooms, one to store twisted hay and the other for meetings. Henry Hein said their family sang hymns all the way as they went to this church in their lumber wagon drawn by oxen. Pictures of this church were sold to raise money for a new church—sometimes called Pearl Creek Methodist—which still is used. On the back of the picture is the history of the sod church, built by men of the community, each giving from one to two dollars for the door and shingles. By 1886 it had grown from nine to 50 members.

Other early country churches included the Rose Hill Church, started in 1902 in Grant Township; the Francis Willard Methodist Church—the old Bishop home—moved to Custer Township, and later moved to Richland Township; the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Belle Prairie Township, started in 1883; and the Earlville Norwegian Lutheran Church in Burr Oak Township. Services still are being held in some of these churches. Mrs. Max Vetterman and Mrs. M. Kamenz have vivid memories of the Belle Prairie Church, Mrs. Kamenz having had charge of a post office in one part of the church and Mrs. Vetterman having boarded the minister as it was customary for ministers to board with different families when they had no home. It is said that missionaries came as soon as there was a hay loft where they could sleep.

The help of Rev. E. H. Grant, after whom Grant Township was named, was greatly appreciated since he organized many Sunday

Schools, not only in Beadle County, but throughout the state. In 1881 he walked nine miles to administer communion in Parker Hall. He was commissioned Sunday School missionary in 1888. He retired in 1919.

A few in Huron such as Mrs. Don Medbery recall the first Sunday School in Liberty and Cavour Townships—then known as Shue Creek Township—at Theron May's barn. Harry Newcomer brought an organ on a stone boat, and for several years Ed Cass furnished reading material sent from his home town in New York. Later services were held in the Milne school. Helen Ackerman Findley speaks of ministers riding on bicycles from Huron.

Many of the churches in surrounding towns were held in depots or schoolhouses. In Cavour the first religious service was held in Pat Burns' Cavour House. Rev. Peter Daily, a claim holder, preached the first sermon in Virgil in a schoolhouse. In 1884 the Methodist minister, Rev. S. A. French, had charge of services at Wolsey, Virgil, Baker schoolhouse, and Bonilla. Holden and Lucinda Cook were among the first members in Virgil, Holden being on the board from 1885 to 1893. Of the early ministers, E. E. Dean, father of Mrs. Charles Ward, is the only one with relatives here. O. W. Coursey wrote of Rev. G. B. Marston, a claim holder, being a powerful preacher who held frequent prayer meetings. He baptized the converts in a large galvanized tank on the porch of a widow's home.

"My mother, then Belle Littlefield, played the organ in the first Sunday School in Hitchcock—held in the depot," said Alex Phillips. The church, built in 1883, had a few ministers who have relatives here such as Rev. W. H. Hoadley, 1886 to 1888; A. W. Thurston, 1888 to 1897; and Rev. E. E. Dean, 1898 to 1900. The Hitchcock ministers usually had charge of the services at Broadland too. Some of the familiar names connected with the early Broadland church are W. D. Johnson, Lewis Todnem, T. J. Price, Perry and Harry Dickson and the Silas Wright family. The present Broadland church was built in 1904.

CHAPTER 8

Progressive Activities

The air held suspense of the future,
The covered wagons held dreams of romance.

By 1888, there were over 20 organizations in Huron. The first women's club was the Alpha Club, started in 1883. Later it was called the Nineteenth Century Club, then the Twentieth Century. Mrs. Dorothy Habel of Huron, daughter of Mrs. B. E. Beach, is the only descendant here of a charter member. A picture of this club is in Beadle County files.

In a building which stood at the southeast corner of Second Street and Dakota Avenue was a store with a hall above it owned by O. M. Botsford who came September 1, 1880. It was in this hall that some of the first lodges were organized such as Huron Lodge No. 25, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, August, 1881, and the first meeting of the James River Lodge No. 32, I. O. O. F., November, 1881. Other meeting places of the Odd Fellows were the Fullerton building in 1885 and later, the third floor of the Wheeler building. Among the early officers who have relatives in Huron were H. J. Rice and W. A. Retschlag. It was the members of this lodge who moved nine bodies to start the Riverside Cemetery in 1883.

In the Beadle County files are pictures of some of the first lodge groups such as the Workmen, 1899, in which was H. C. Sessions, past grand master, Michigan, and father of Kate Sessions, supreme recorder of Degree of Honor for United States and Canada; pictures of the first grand lodge, Dakotas, later divided into North and South Dakota; the Dewey Club; choral groups; and the first cornet band, organized March 14, 1881. Early orchestral photos and hundreds of family pictures collected by the Beadle County Historical Society also are in the files. The Skidoo Club, organized later, also is pictured.

The G. A. R. was very active. E. M. Thomas, father of Mrs. Jesse Burns, took a leading part.

The W. C. T. U. and Y. M. C. A. arranged for the first reading room which was over Cash and Busbey's store in 1883. In one day, the W. C. T. U. raised over \$40 for the project. The reading room was the beginning of a library which continued over stores such as Milo Booth's until 1889 when it was moved to The Times office. At that time it had 600 books with a charge of \$1.00 annual dues. Later other organizations helped until in 1907 the present Carnegie Library was started. An item in a 1901 Huronite speaks of Andrew Carnegie offering any city which furnished a suitable site, money for a library

on condition the city also give as much as 10 per cent of the gift. Mr. Carnegie gave Huron \$10,000 for the building of a free library on condition that the city furnish a site and maintain a library at a cost of not less than \$1000 a year.

The women of Beadle County made a valiant fight for woman suffrage as did those of the state. In 1879 they were allowed to vote at school meetings but a law passed in 1883 took away that right. Governor Gilbert Pierce vetoed the suffrage bill in 1885. Since more than a third of the land was owned by women, they felt they should be represented. In 1889, there were no funds for the campaign, and Susan B. Anthony worked for six months without pay besides paying \$300 out of her own funds.

In 1890 the headquarters were at Huron. Mrs. Emma De Voe at 347 Kansas Avenue generously opened her home to the workers, and letters were sent to every voter. Speakers often drove 20 miles, and the audience as much as 30, some in lumber wagons, in order to hear the women's arguments for their rights. State representatives refused seats to women but welcomed Indians in blankets. On the suffragette's banner was "Under God the People Rule. Women Are People." The struggle continued until 1918 when a bill was passed allowing women to vote.

One of the often-repeated stories of early timers is the account of Susan B. Anthony speaking in the sod church. A German fellow was trying to heckle her by saying, "So the vomen vants to vote," whereupon she marched down and gave the rest of her talk directly to him while shaking her fist in his face.

Along with woman suffrage talks, were many temperance meetings in schoolhouses in the country and much agitation for prohibition. When the state came into the union in 1889, prohibition came with it but was repealed in 1896. In 1898 a state dispensary was voted but it too was repealed two years later. Evidently the prohibition law was not well enforced for in 1893 a committee was formed to ask Attorney General Coe I. Crawford to interfere where the law was not upheld. No doubt there was a difference of opinion as to who should enforce the law. Raids were made on several "blind pigs" in Huron. Hitchcock has the record of never having had a saloon. A still, found by the W. B. McNiel family, is a reminder of early times. Clyde's father and his brother rescued it from a deep pool in Sand Creek in the early 1830s, apparently hidden there from the revenue officers.

The settlers had a hard time getting their mail before the railroad came. The old stage trail running from Yankton to Bismarck passed a mile east of the packing plant. There was a station, probably an overnight one, on the west side of Lake Byron. Later when the mail no longer was carried by the Star Route, the road was on the west side of the river, and a station maintained just south of the north line of Beadle County at Winthrop. According to one report, it was brought over this route by Pete Brooks in 1879. The Star livery with 150 horses was the largest in the territory. G. W. Van Dusen.

bought it in 1880. John Kouf says there are traces of a stage route near his place eight miles northeast of Huron. His father stayed at Van Dusen's when trapping. Judge R. M. Russell speaks of his parents buying one of the buildings which was papered with newspapers. According to Major F. F. B. Coffin, delivery was very slow. In July, 1880, he said, there wasn't a post office for nearly 100 miles.

The Martin Baum family speak of having guarded the mail at night when it was sorted at their place. Evidently there were several distributing centers such as one near Armstrong's in Sanborn County; one near Lake Byron at Winthrop with the office in Mark Nicholl's home; and the Lakeside post office on Smith Newcomer's farm, section 36, Lake Byron Township, established in 1882 and moved to Liberty Township on the J. D. Kidman farm, section 17, in the 1890s. It was discontinued in 1906. The Lawrence post office, section 27, Milford Township, at the home of A. F. Lawrence, was started September 8, 1884, and discontinued February 18, 1896. Winthrop post office was established May 9, 1883, and discontinued February 15, 1911. Mrs. Harry Lindquist reports going horseback three miles twice a week after mail there. Joseph Hoy had charge of it after 1895. Gale Small thinks the mailman left Huron with a horse and buggy supplied by John Ward and went to Lakeside, Lawrence, Winthrop, and then to La Delle and Frankfort, where the driver stayed overnight and came back to Huron the next day. L. L. Lawrence, until recently, had 30 pigeon-hole mailboxes from their old post office.

Many old-timers recall Rayville Post Office and store in Pearl Creek Township with Charles Ray in charge. The buildings are still there and the old blacksmith shop still in use. In their home Robert Gilgore had Belle Post Office with over 20 people getting mail there twice a week until 1910 when free delivery was started. Edna Anderson of Pearl Creek Township recalled that their house was formerly used as a post office and that the only way they could get mail from Cavour was with snowshoes. Another important early post office was at Earlville, Burr Oak Township, established in Aurora County, 1882, and later moved to the George Hatch home, and discontinued in 1900. Charles Hatch was the first child born in Burr Oak Township.

Some of the early mail carriers have relatives in the county. Frank Roberts, a relative of Lou Roberts, ran a stagecoach and no doubt carried mail from Mitchell to Huron. Zack Sutley, grandfather of Dr. Carman Sutley, took mail from Huron to Wessington Springs in 1883. He also had a stage line from Huron to Mitchell, later owned by E. A. Gould, whose relatives live in Hitchcock. Sutley met his future wife, Anna Bard, in Huron. One of the first carriers, Fred Kurtz, father of Mrs. Harry Jacobsen, went from Huron to Madison, spending two days each way. He spoke of finding several comforters dropped from covered wagons. Just before the regular trains started, mail was taken to and from Volga each evening on the construction train. "My father, William Oerlline, was fireman on that construction train," said J. W. Oerlline.

The first post office in Huron, with John Cain as postmaster,

was fourth class in 1880, second in 1882, and in 1883 it was the largest in Dakota and paid the highest salaries. In 1885, it took in over \$7000. Free delivery was started in 1888 with carriers receiving \$600 a year. The mailbox hung between two wheels having a low-hung step, behind which a carrier could stand. During the hard times, free delivery was discontinued for a period. In the files is a picture of early mail carriers, and the account book of John Cain in 1880 showing a number of money orders.

The telephone service in Huron was started in 1882 with Charles L. Edwards, father of Ted Edwards, manager. E. T. Cressey reported 55 subscribers in 1883. For several years the telephones were discontinued. Ted tells of the thrill he had years later when talking long distance from Idaho to his father after both had installed telephones. In 1897, John Zietlow put in a toll station at Lapier's restaurant. In 1899, John Kemerer, father of Mrs. J. Bush, became manager. R. O. Richards had a private line with equipment from Norway.

The Western Union was started April 1, 1883. Mr. Cressey reported 1642 messages sent in May, 1883. The first manager was G. W. Fletcher, then B. C. Wilkins.

Fairs have been connected with Huron since the early days. A five-day county fair was held in Parker Hall October, 1882, and the Territorial fair, September 29, 1885.

The gate receipts that year were nearly \$7000. After being in Huron for two years, the fair was moved to Mitchell, Aberdeen, and Sioux Falls for two-year periods. After the 1895 fair held in Sioux Falls, the legislature granted the fair board authority to hold the fair not less than five nor more than 10 years in the same location. It became apparent that a permanent place was needed in order to increase the land and buildings. In 1887 an appropriation of \$3000 was made for the support of the fair. This was continued for 14 years. In 1888, 1889, and 1892, there were deficits. An outstanding year was at Aberdeen in 1890 when there were 7000 visitors the third day with seven bands with "Huron for Capital" banners. Rev. Anna Shaw spoke on woman suffrage.

In 1905 when Huron was chosen as a permanent place for the fair, the Chicago & North Western Railway donated 85 acres and the legislature appropriated \$15,000 for the improvement of the grounds. Several early timers worked on the first buildings, among them Herman Weir, who had charge of constructing the women's building in 1909. In the Beadle County files is an account of Walter Myers erecting some of the first buildings.

Other noteworthy accomplishments during the early days included a street car and a steamboat. The street car tracks were laid in August, 1886. Old-timers say that the first week \$735 were taken in five-cent fares. The car, drawn by a horse or mule driven by Frank Sheldon, met the trains at night and also ran every 15 minutes to the opera house. One route went from Dakota Avenue and Fifth as far



Testing artesian well pressure of city mains at Third Street and Wisconsin Avenue (present Fullerton Building). City street car shown at left.

as the fairgrounds. At Dakota and Third Street, tracks ran west to the Great Northern tracks and east on Third Street to Idaho Avenue where it turned south and went within a few blocks of the Utah Street School. There were four horse cars, but only two at a time were used. Fred Boos, John Foasberg, Mrs. Polly James, Katie Nelson, and Mrs. John Gascoigne recall riding on it. Later the cars interfered with traffic and were discontinued in 1890, after which one of the cars was used as a playhouse. "Some places still show the effects of the old street car track," said E. I. Bowe. "Many paid their fare and ran along the side of the first car so they could say they made the first trip." Wilma Bliss has a street car ticket which her father, William H. Bliss, preserved in a paper weight.

E. I. Bowe, at the age of 14, helped to construct their boat, "The City of Huron," and acted as pilot for several years as it sailed up the river with picnickers, convention visitors, dancing parties, and school gatherings. This 48-foot steamer sailed at the amazing speed of seven miles an hour. Old school-desk seats served for deck chairs for the frolickers when not dancing. The captain, S. A. Bowe, often played the melodeon. The boat could easily carry 40 passengers and it took as many as 90 during one convention. An advertisement read,

"\$1 per hour, 50 persons." This boat was in use much of the time for about ten years and used for business as well as pleasure. The men working on the Great Northern grade found it handy for them to get back to work. Some planks and the elaborately carved steering wheel may still be seen at the Bowe home, and the old flag with 28 stars at the Pioneer Museum.

The weather bureau in Huron was started in 1881 with S. W. Glenn in charge. His furniture consisted of a store box for a desk and a nail keg for a chair. Some of the first instruments have been in use until recently. A triple register, the 93rd instrument of its kind, was replaced by a newer model in 1956. Since about 1930, radio announcements have taken the place of the old weather flags which were displayed on buildings and the sides of baggage cars. A square of white indicated fair weather; a blue, rain or snow; if there was a black triangle above the white or blue flag, it indicated warmer weather; if below, colder. A square white flag with a black center (severe weather), was used so often in the early days that it gave Dakota a bad reputation, and it was decided in 1897 to call it a norther signal to indicate high wind and snow with temperature below zero.

Don Burney, a messenger boy at the age of 18 in 1895, described his work which was to take weather maps to the stores and depot. Twenty or more were made each day and placed upon the walls or counters. These showed the wind, pressure, temperature, etc., in different parts of the United States. Getting to the local papers early in the morning with the wire reports made him hustle. Later he was observer with a beginning salary of \$70 a month. In 1898 Edward Wells received \$20 a month as a map distributor.

CHAPTER 9

Pioneer Resourcefulness and Fun

**Their loneliness made all the neighbors kin
And every living thing a source of joy.**

In the early days the settlers learned to be resourceful. Roads usually followed the shortest distance between two points and went across the country in every direction—just tracks across the prairie, made first by a swath of cut grass, then rocks were piled here and there to indicate the shortest trail, should the grass grow too fast.

"To make a road to our school in Cavour Township, we dragged a path through the weeds by nailing some ties together on top of which we put boards, then rocks for weight and hitched a horse to it," said Mrs. Nora Walsh.

Getting supplies was a one or two-day journey, depending upon where one lived. Olive Wood whose parents came to Kellogg Township in 1882, spoke of hauling lumber from Huron 25 miles. Since there were no bridges across the creeks, they had to unload half their load of lumber, drive across the stream, then unload what they had and go after the other half. Mrs. Will Thompson said that it was so hard to get across the creek, her mother's parents decided to stay in Huron.

When fuel became scarce, several families would move into the largest house. The shortage of fuel affected nearly everyone at times. Schools had to be closed for periods because of the scarcity. E. T. Cressey in his newspaper told of the time a load was expected, and the dealer had to limit the coal to half a ton to a family.

"Fuel was so scarce," wrote Frank Lynch, who lived near Iroquois, "that farmers came for 15 or 20 miles, then got onto freight cars and shoved off the coal, while others went along with wagons and picked it up. Since our house was near the track, we filled our shed one night."

The settlers thought nothing of walking long distances. In order to take the train at Mitchell to go after his bride in the East, Fred Wilcox walked to Mitchell. In 1879, Will Farrell walked from Volga to Huron. Others rode horseback long distances. To get here in 1880, E. C. Lyman rode that way the last 100 miles. Mrs. E. Hopper tells of riding horseback 23 miles to see her sister. Mrs. Minnie York gives a vivid description of her mother riding side-saddle for eight miles. Carrying a baby in one arm, and with Minnie clinging to her back, the mother rode to their sod house near Doland in 1883.

Albert Baum said, "When we lived near Yankton, there was no

bridge over the Missouri River. Father walked to Missouri and drove back about 100 head of cattle. Crossing the river, the cattle would have gone in circles and drowned had it not been for the advice of some Indians who said, 'Put calves in canoes. Cattle follow.' It worked."

Many had to carry supplies on foot. William Davis walked 12 miles for shoes for his son, then found they didn't fit. His widow laughed as she said that he often walked that distance after mail and all he had for lunch was 5c worth of dried herring.

Mrs. Maud York Smith laughs as she tells of their trip. "One summer day my mother, Mrs. James McDonough, wished to visit a neighbor a few miles away but had no proper way of getting there. She decided to hitch our mule to the front runners of our sled, and away we went over the tall grass as I tried to keep the baby from falling off."

Many had no way of getting places or carrying things except by the use of a stone boat—a flat sled without runners. The settlers sometimes hauled barrels of water several miles on this platform. Families seated on boxes or chairs used them when visiting neighbors. Mrs. Fred Holton sat on her trunk on one as she rode from Yankton to Huron.

The old-timers learned to use what they had. When their ovens didn't work, they fried their bread dough or carried it to a neighbor's oven. Courseys had no feed for the calves but dishwater. On the sailboat on which the grandmother of Arthur Schultz came to America, they ran out of food and had nothing but soup made of potato peelings. When the Schallers needed a larger table, they laid the cellar door across some sawhorses. Jim Worrell's parents couldn't sell their butter but found it was good for softening their harnesses. Mrs. Laura Seeley had no writing material so she used the margins of newspapers. Lacking paper for print, John Cain published six issues of his newspaper on brown wrapping paper. On March 11, 1881, the Canton newspaper was printed on a bleached flour sack. As Mrs. L. Tredway had no new cloth to make her daughter a dress, she used red blizzard flags. Newspapers served as wallpaper—put upside down so the children wouldn't be tempted to waste time. Since they had no hose or socks, the Issenhuths lined their shoes with paper.

All sorts of substitutes were used. A hayrack transported Bernard Teuber and 13 other men when they went to Mitchell to file on land. Dr. Frieda Feige clipped the hair from hides of cattle to put into her plaster. Mrs. R. Leaver said they used slough grass, cut into one-inch lengths. An ash tree served as a drag for Ed Baum. One of the most ingenious achievements was a violin Oscar Coursey made of the bleached skull of his cow pony. The teeth were loose, and when he struck the bass string, they vibrated like an orchestra. He said he and old Jim went to many dances—at last under musical circumstances.

Since there were few doctors, the settlers learned to use simple remedies. When Olive Wood's foot became infected, her mother healed it with salt pork. Many used fried onions for chest colds. Doctors had to travel long distances with a horse and buggy. Dr. Mark Cogswell, Wolsey, speaks of averaging 75 miles a day and keeping two livery teams busy. Sometimes the only sleep doctors would have was when they had someone drive for them. Doctors often had to operate with make-shift instruments and without an anaesthetic. It was Ernest Sutton's duty to hold surgery patients down by sitting on their legs. In return, Dr. J. W. Primm gave him a room rent-free. Mrs. E. Barber speaks of Dr. J. Shull taking out her appendix on the kitchen table. Since many settlers had little money, doctors sometimes went back to town leading a colt or calf.

Even pets cooperated in those early days. A goat turned the merry-go-round for Albert Teuber's family. A dog turned the churn for Mrs. Henry Kingdon's parents who kept 40 cows. One turned the churn for John Frizell too. Pets were so valuable that Mrs. S. Peet refused \$15 for her cat.

During the first winter there was a lack of kerosene, and settlers had to make their own candles. Mrs. J. J. Robins told of cutting cords as long as she wanted her candles, then she tied weights to the ends of five or six wicks. To the other ends she tied a round stick. Then she put tallow in a kettle with hot water around it. When the tallow was melted, she kept dipping and cooling the wicks until they were as large as she wished, after which she hung them up to cool. For light, Robert Baum put a rag in a dish of melted tallow.

If short of space, the housewife had to share her house with chickens, sick pigs, grain, seed corn, or choice tools. Pets were sometimes named for members of the family, the children taking great pride in ownership of runty pigs or calves that had to have special attention and consequently followed them around.

Since there was little variety in food, the settlers tried to preserve it. Corn was dried or made into hominy. William Haigh said they ground their corn in the coffee mill. Some parched it, then ground it and used it for breakfast food. Mrs. Jerry Harris recalled making hominy by putting the corn in lye water, then rinsing it and scrubbing off the hulls on the washboard. Gailard Shoemaker spoke of having cornmeal mush three times a day. Frank Bloodgood wrote they had pancakes and potato soup for breakfast and mush and milk for dinner and supper. Dana Durand wrote that their food consisted mostly of pancakes and baking powder biscuits. Fresh fruits were unheard of and many children didn't see oranges until they were 10 or 12. Possibly some would have one in their stockings at Christmas.

Some important discoveries were made. It was found that weeds do not grow in sod and that beans and other food could be raised without cultivation. B. F. Teets spoke of breaking the sod with

an axe and dropping in potatoes and corn with a resulting good crop. G. W. Johnson also spoke of using that method. Farmers experimented with different kinds of crops. Joe Rother found he could raise sugar beets that were 22 per cent sugar. Lemuel Hixson raised broom corn, and in the winter made brooms, using hand-made machinery excepting the press used for sewing them. He sold the brooms to the stores in Wessington. When a drought affected the crops, farmers tried raising squaw corn which matures faster than other corn. Later, alfalfa and grasses were raised. When crops were poor, threshing was done with a small machine turned by horses. Wheat was sown by hand at first, then with seeders. Several, such as August Dubro, Sr., carried sacks of seed wheat on their arms and scattered it on the field. John Kouf still has the hand-planter his father used in the early 1880's and explained the way they marked the ground so the corn would be in even rows. Small plows were exchanged for gang plows about 1900. James Borah bought the first threshing machine sold in Huron and threshed for many years.

There were so many ruffians in the early days that settlers had a hard time protecting themselves. Cowboys took pride in riding into saloons on horseback and doing much as they pleased. The story is told of the shock they gave Dr. O. M. Farrington and E. G. Wheeler when, with guns, they entered the Wheeler store and made these dignitaries dance. Even methods of procuring justice differed and were somewhat slower than now. In an 1886 Huronite is an account of the procedure of the sheriff in a case involving horse theft. A fine team of sorrel mares was stolen June 20. The sheriff, A. McRostie, sent postal cards to all the sheriffs within 100 miles. Through these cards, the thief in Wessington Springs was arrested and found guilty. James DuBois and others have given accounts of these horse thieves who had hide-outs in the Wessington Hills.

In spite of their many hardships, the settlers were contented and happy. After going miles to visit neighbors, they appreciated their company. Their difficulties and common problems gave them a spirit of unity—a challenge to make the most of the little entertainment they had. With an unpaid fiddler, they often danced until early morning. Mrs. K. B. Anderson spoke of walking four miles to barn dances at Henry Meyer's place, dancing all night, and walking back home, after which she walked behind the drag all day. The center of fun was in the home. Children played with hand-made toys such as baseballs made of balls of twine covered with pieces of soft leather cut from old shoes. Dolls were made of socks; broken dishes, and doll furniture made of cigar boxes were used in the playhouses. Sleds made of old boards were painted red and hidden in the haymow awaiting Christmas. Artesian well ponds afforded good skating rinks where the neighborhood young people gathered. Neighbors usually went visiting Sundays and when an organ was available, sang hymns for hours.

Taffy pulls were popular too. The settlers used their ingenuity to think up new games for entertainment that would include all ages.

Mrs. Nora Walsh tells of a game they called "duck on the rock." They chose up sides and with little rocks tried to hit a large rock. Little children had fun hitching strings to tumble weeds and playing they were horses, said Mrs. Lena Wheat.

The settlers looked forward to going to at least one picnic during the summer. Hammocks made of barrel staves wired together were put up in the trees. At the Sunday School picnics in Ashland Park in Huron, families were supposed to bring a hammock and a camp stool. Settlers west of Huron usually went to the Broadland picnic started by the Michigan settlement in 1883—first in a school-house and later, June 19, in Suits' grove, the trees of which were so small one had to sit down to be in the shade. This picnic was held for many years, and Mrs. William Nash still has the secretary's book. Those near Wessington went to picnics at Merritt's grove in Hand County. South of Huron, many went to Miner's grove June 12 or Alley's grove June 7. Settlers went long distances, often in lumber wagons. There were usually ball games, races, a speech, and always homemade ice cream at 5c a dish. A merry-go-round run by a horse and, later, by steam, was a great attraction.

A remarkable combination of play and work included various "bees." When any big job needed to be done, the neighbors came together and each helped. Husking and quilting bees were the most common though butchering bees were quite necessary since it was a hard job for one person. At threshing time the women as well as the men gathered, and the work went fast.

Since many objected to using the schoolhouses for dancing, literary societies were started. Mrs. Hattie Place wrote of starting one in 1884. Others in Iowa and Liberty Townships were well attended. Mrs. Henry Kingdon has the minutes of meetings written on a long sheet of wrapping paper. These societies gave an opportunity for expression in debates, oratory, and entertainment. Prohibition and the greatness of different generals were popular subjects for debate. The oratory of Mrs. Ed Wilson and Clara Cressey Mingus was recognized as being remarkable.

Spelling matches were much enjoyed. In 1886 the Presbyterians won over the Methodists, then the Baptists won the match with Mrs. E. T. Cressey the final winner. An admission of 15c cleared \$32.00. Masquerade carnivals, the stores furnishing the prizes, helped to raise money for various projects. At a Baptist social in 1890, the guests represented different stores and were judged according to the originality. An unusual Methodist dinner required the men to pay according to the weight of their ladies. Each could bring as many ladies as he liked and a prize was given to the one bringing the most weight. Lawns sometimes were gaily decorated with Japanese lanterns for social affairs. At a Presbyterian one, the men, under the direction of Fred Kent, dressed as women and served ice cream and cake.

A favorite at country schools was a basket social to which the

women and girls brought elaborately decorated lunch baskets which were sold to the highest bidder. Shadow socials at which men bid on shadows of ladies afforded much fun. At a unique social in Whiteside Township school, a cake was to become the property of the lady receiving the most votes. Maggie Ferguson and Carrie Dake each won a cake. A \$10 organ was bought with the proceeds from the social.

Those who had money went to the Ice Palace, the first in the West, started in St. Paul, 1886, with excursion rates \$14.30 round-trip from Huron. As early as November, 1886, the pioneer drama, "Davy Crockett," was given. That and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" were great favorites. Huron was proud of its grand opera house, the largest in Dakota, seating 1500 people. After that burned, about 1902, the Daum opera house was used for many years. Shortly after 1900, Bessie Robbins and her company were popular.

Old-timers recall the long rides in lumber wagons to see Buffalo Bill and his 600 rough riders representing different nations, September 5, 1899. The coming of Teddy Roosevelt, William J. Bryan, and William McKinley brought large crowds. In the files are several pictures of these parades. One shows Coe I. Crawford about to introduce Teddy Roosevelt. Other parades such as the one described by Mrs. L. Stout were clever. For the Democrats they had a gay-looking bay mare; for the G. O. P., an old sway-back white mare; and a prancing, well-groomed brown horse for the People's Party. As they led them down the street, they sang "The Political Hoss Race," a song composed by Mrs. Stout's father, Ezra Fuller.

The Fourth of July celebrations were something to remember. That of 1880 lacked an extra bat and the baseball game had to be discontinued when the only one was broken. Flags borrowed from Cavour decorated the town. Horses owned by the railroad company raced from Third and Dakota to the railroad, their fly blankets, with advertisements for Edwin Wheeler's store, flapping as they ran. They did such a good job racing that they were stolen that night and never found. B. F. Cass presided at the program and Nellie Carter played the melodeon.

In the Beadle County files is an advertisement for the celebration in 1882, giving a long impressive list of vice presidents from all over the state and an important speaker from Chicago. A grandstand was built under the river bridge which served as a shade for the several thousand people in attendance. Over \$150 were given in prizes to the winners of the boys' races, the fat men's race, and various others, such as a tub race which turned out to be a swimming race when the tubs turned over. The Rev. George Cressey jumped in and rescued one fellow who couldn't swim. Con Huntley, father of Harvey, won the free-for-all race. Huron won the ball game with Cavour, 21 to 20.

It is reported that there were as many as 15,000 at the 1889 celebration. With families perched on lumber wagons, they came for 40 or more miles. The capital fight had much to do with the elaborate

decorations and the crowds. Catching a greased pig and climbing a greased pole added to the fun. In 1892 Albert Lampe won the prize for the former and Sankey, the latter. In 1897 Albert Lampe roasted and served an ox to hundreds of people. He won second in several races, and Karl Lampe won first in the boys' race. F. H. Holton's team won first in the pulling contest, and William Tolmie in the gun club shooting—53 out of 71. Some old settlers recall the dresses their mothers made of red, white, and blue bunting. When it rained, they were a strange sight.

One of the largest country celebrations was reported by the Martin Harmon family in Belle Prairie Township where over 200 met in 1884. A salute of 40 guns at sunrise started the excitement. At the program S. R. Montague was in charge with Oscar Kinney and F. E. Stevens as speakers. One of the strings on the bass viol broke, but a fence wire made a good substitute. Over 100 stayed for the dance in the granary, which measured 18x36.

Baseball always was popular. A note in an 1888 paper states that O. C. Dallas, left fielder on the Huron team, had just been signed up by the Chicago National League. The Boston Bloomers, organized in 1895 and on their seventh tour in 1889, defeated the Huron boys by a score of 10 to 2. They arrived in a private car, bringing their own canvas and grandstand which seated 2000 people. Such events usually took place on Capital Hill. Chautauquas were also held there. That was where the golf course started, extending to Ninth Street and west several blocks. The clubhouse was at Sixth and Idaho. Coler and Mac Campbell helped to start it, and Leonard Davis and Dr. C. Walker, who were caddies, recall that E. E. Vance became champion of the state.

In the 1890's, bicycle races were also common. Miss Jessie Tolmie recalled riding to other towns with a group of girls. At a gathering in Mitchell, nearly every town sent a delegation.

Horse racing was introduced by Dr. R. A. Tait, Don Medbery, and L. C. Tredway. Robert Baum's horse won many local races. The track was north of the railroad tracks and later on the river bottom south of Third Street. Later, Dr. W. R. Wright owned some racing horses.

In the 1880's foot racing became very popular with Con Huntley winning national fame. In 1887 he won over Brown in a 125-yard dash, the prize \$175. A detailed account of a race with Hart of Iowa, June 2, 1888, is given in the Huronite. Each person put up \$500, and 75 per cent of the gate receipts was to go to the winner, 25 per cent to the loser. Huntley won, running 200 yards in 23 seconds. In July, 1888, he won against C. F. Curtis in San Francisco when he ran 100 yards in 10½ seconds. Curtis had a yard head start and Huntley won by nearly four feet. Huntley was to compete in England but became ill after he reached there. His substitute took second. At one of Huntley's races, he was told that if he won, his life would be in danger. He had a fast team stationed just beyond the finish line. After

he won, he kept on running, jumped into the spring wagon, and away he went.

Hunting and trapping provided food and furs in the early days. Mrs. L. Stout said it was common for the whole family to go in a wagon and hunt all day, the women and children driving the team while the men hunted. John A. Sauer was treasurer of the Beadle County Game Club. In 1887 it reported getting wagonloads of ducks. Men spent much time cleaning their guns and getting just the right amount of powder in their shells. G. Shoemaker told of his experience hiding behind Russian thistles while hunting geese. If he went against the wind, the geese knew it. George Baum raised some of the first pheasants hatched from eggs supplied by the government. Mike Tobin also helped introduce them.

Hose cart and hook and ladder contests showed the ingenuity of the pioneers in getting fun out of common experiences. Huron had a fire department in 1883, but the Dakota Firemen's Association was not organized until 1884. There was much practicing and many celebrations in honor of world records. Harvey Huntley described the contest as follows: The race was 300 yards from a standing start. The cart had to weigh 500 pounds, stripped of hose and all accessories. Then 350 feet of hose were placed upon the cart. Sixteen men made up a team. The time was figured from the start to the point when the end of the hose with a nozzle attached was dropped to the ground.

One of the first celebrations was June 17, 1886, following the Huron team's return from Pierre, where they had set a world record. Four hundred spectators along with 11 cars of firemen and machines had gone to Pierre. To celebrate their victory of a time score of 46½ seconds, Mayor H. J. Rice ordered bunting and flags that decorated over 100 Huron business houses. Bands with brooms for batons led a procession of about 1000 at the head of which rode Henry Schaller, dressed in a plug hat and linen duster. On a 10-foot pole he carried a live rooster decorated with a ribbon upon which the score was printed. Several hundred badges with "Huron Welcomes Dakota Firemen" were carried. The Father Hubbard Fire Company, commanded by Captain D. E. Wellman, made a great sensation when the men appeared in nightcaps and white Mother Hubbard dresses with pantalots. Their banner was inscribed with the company name and score which was carried over the head of Chief Dallas.

On June 19, 1889, Huron made a better record—38 seconds—which lowered the world record four seconds. Con Huntley, who coached and ran lead in this winning team, explained that a jeweler tested the watch used, the weather bureau checked the degree of wind, and the New York Clipper, a well-known newspaper, sent a man to measure distances.

Those in the first fire departments who still have relatives here include John A. Sauer, Fred Bloodgood, Julius Nawatney, Jack Stiver, Con Huntley, C. W. Osborn, and F. H. Holton, treasurer in 1885, and later chief. J. H. Finch, a drayman, probably was on the

team the longest of anyone. In the Beadle County files is a picture of one of the first teams.

The men who met in Sauer's storeroom must have had great visions of making Dakota a noted place throughout the world when they planned the greyhound coursing events. Since there were no fences and rabbits were plentiful, the country was an ideal place for the international event in October, 1893. People swarmed in from every civilized country, eager to see the native sod and endless prairies. Tom Fleming recalls that Professor Hood urged the school children to attend since the events would go down in history. A caretaker at 1500 Dakota Avenue kept 25 or more hounds for Englishmen, but many brought their own dogs and saddles, although they used American horses. Of the Huron people, F. B. Coyne and Con Huntley kept the most hounds.

These events were held in Beadle County for several years. Mr. Fleming said the rules were very strict, positions being drawn as for horse racing. A printed program told of different events. Sometimes as many as 1000 spectators attended these races which lasted from four days to a week. As soon as a rabbit was spotted, the spectators would stop and remain in one place until the race was over. A man known as a slipper would square the dogs behind the rabbit and release two dogs at exactly the same time. A judge and steward followed the dogs on horseback and determined the points each dog made according to speed, dexterity in turning, and the kill. When one



Coursing meet (rabbit hunt) held north of Huron about 1890.

event was over, the judges would rush back and wave a flag before the audience to show them the winner; then the crowd would race on to find another rabbit. Frank Bloodgood reported watching a chase from the top of their barn—nine Englishmen with their high hats and fancy red coats, all chasing one rabbit that went on to safety.

It is said that the international event cost Huron \$3000 but was worth \$50,000 in advertising South Dakota. Governor Sheldon received many letters from noted people complimenting South Dakota upon its achievement and hospitality. One was from Count J. Rostoftzof and another from the agricultural department of the British Court. W. P. Retschlag, a taxidermist, was busy afterwards mounting rabbits for souvenirs. These events were held during the hard times, proving the settlers knew how to have fun, money or no money. In the Beadle County files are several pictures of local men and their hounds ready for racing.

CHAPTER 10

A Heritage To Hold

**Their every gain made brighter every loss
Just as the darkness brings the stars at night.**

Pioneers share the opinion that the pleasures of pioneer life made up for the difficulties. The challenge of living under such uncertainties made sturdy characters. For every hardship recounted there was an overcoming spirit that makes the history of Dakota so noteworthy. Through the days of lack, there was faith to match it, a promise that the pioneer sons and daughters would have an easier time and a state of which to be proud. In their limitation there came an appreciation that gave them a preparation for life. Descendants share a glow of pride in the accomplishments of these first settlers and are happy to have been a part of those who went through trials that give them a heritage of courage and persistence.

In a brief history of this period it is impossible to include all of the many worthy settlers since an average of from 20 to 30 settlers in each township still have relatives in the county. Because of the sacrifice and spirit of the pioneers, each was important. Together they formed a unified body.

Conditions change from day to day and it should be remembered that a statement made when this history is written may not be true tomorrow. At present the families with most direct descendants in the county are Thomas J. Tyrrell, Foster Township, 1882, and James Payne, Altoona Township, 1881, each with six. The Tyrrell family include Harvey, Leslie, and Ray Tyrrell, and Mesdames Arthur Hanson, Fred Parlee, and Ruby Mort. The James Payne family with the most descendants in the county—108—have Mesdames Maude Price, Herb Marshall, Clarence Van Buskirk, Ira Gilbert, L. D. and John Mortimer, and also a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Eva Payne. The descendants of the family of Harvey Thompson, Grant Township, 1882, are Mesdames Belle Remster, Harry Lehman, Pearl Williams, and Betty Giard.

Of those who have the most descendants buried in one cemetery is the family of Mrs. Ernestine Kuehl, who has five generations buried on section 30, Foster Township, most of the graves being of relatives.

Other early settlers with many descendants in the county are Abram Bloodgood, 1881, and Wm. Jungemann, both with 78, and Martin Keller and Joseph Delvaux, both with over 60.

The first child born in the county, Albert Baum, still resides in Clifton Township. Charles Doyle, who has resided in Beadle County

the longest of anyone, came in the fall of 1880. Next to them, John Foasberg probably has the longest record of residence. The first child born in Nance Township, Mattie Barnes Curtis, lives in Wessington. The first born in Altoona Township, Maude Payne Price, lives in Huron part of the time. Others among the first are Mrs. James O'Brien, Cavour, the second child born in Liberty Township; Mrs. Meroe McEwen Morrissey, Huron, who may have been the first born in Theresa Township, and Mrs. George Starring, Huron, whose parents had the first house in Wessington.

Among the pioneers were many ingenious individuals. Early inventions included H. F. Snediger's sail wagon which was said to have gone 40 miles an hour with the wind; an automatic grain weigher, a fore-runner of the house trailer, and a fire escape, all invented by James Borah; also a number of inventions of Gus Laube, such as 16 designs of strawburners, and a cream separator. Augustine Davis, an early editor, later became wealthy through the invention of the acetylene lamp. Creativity also shows in the skill with which Mrs. Jacob Kouf, Sr., mounted several hundred birds and animals. She studied each bird with infinite patience and made them look most natural. This collection still is at the home of the son, John Kouf, near Huron.

Prominent in their particular fields were George Vanderstein, Sr., Martin Schoenert, Addie Wheeler, and Mrs. T. J. Wood, early music teachers. Ed Issenhuth, the first teacher in Cavour, and later a legislator, was responsible for several laws such as one to improve roads, another to preserve wild life, and one to observe Lincoln's birthday. His niece, May Knupp, Huron, has letters of appreciation written to Ed by Robert Lincoln.

In the Huron Carnegie Library, there are a number of books written by Beadle County people. Two of these are mimeographed—one, "Pages of the Past," written by Mrs. J. J. Robins in 1934 and the other, "A Place-name Study of Beadle County," by Leta May James of Bonilla in 1939. Chic Sale, who lived for 11 years at 643 Illinois Avenue South, sold over a million copies of his book, "The Specialist." Another Huron writer, Henry Van Dalsem, wrote "Poems of Soul and Home." Ernest Sutton and Zack Sutley were both past 80 years of age when they wrote books dealing with early history. "A Life Worth Living," by Sutton, and "The Last Frontier," by Sutley, both tell of early Huron. "Fanny's Autobiography," written by Mrs. A. J. Drake, tells of early life near Iroquois. Other very early writers were the Rev. L. S. McCaslin, who made a study of flora and wrote articles about it, and Fred F. B. Coffin, the author of a book on mental telepathy. The most prolific writer was O. W. Coursey, who wrote 17 books, including history, thumb-nail biographies, and fiction, most of which concern pioneer days in Dakota. A more recent writer is May Bel Thompson, who was a missionary to China for many years and who wrote "Chinese Teenagers and God." She is the daughter of T. S. Thompson, who with his brother-in-law, S. J. Foster, had a thoroughbred stock farm in Custer Township. Cleata Thorpe, whose

parents came early, is soon to have a book published dealing with methods of teaching arithmetic. Another recent writer who lived in Huron in the early days is Adeline Jenney, poet laureate of South Dakota, and also editor of "Pasque Petals," the state poetry magazine.

Though Richard W. Sears stayed only a few years as the first depot agent at Wolsey, his name is known around the world for his mail order business. "Sears lived in the house occupied by my parents later. We still have a watch bought from him," said Mrs. Erich Junge-mann. Earl Carson also recalled his parents having known Sears.

Several people gained renown after leaving the county. Will Love, the first attorney for the railroad, harnessed Niagara Falls for electric power. H. Ray Meyers became U. S. Consul to Honduras. Dana Durand held many important positions, among them Director of the U. S. Census; work with the Food Administration in London, Paris, and Italy, and work with the Department of Commerce and the Tariff Commission. In 1954 he published his autobiography. His brother, Dr. A. H. Durand, now past 90, was on the faculty of Yankton College for many years at which time he wrote the book, "Joseph Ward of Dakota." Dr. W. Welcome Wood, who grew up in Burr Oak Township, received in 1954 a citation from the National Broadcasting Company and the Standard Oil Company of Brazil for outstanding service to the needy regions of Interior Bahia and Brazil.

Mrs. Jessie West, stepmother of Ivan Dmitri, the world-famous photographer who has had over 100 assignments with The Saturday Evening Post, lived in a sod house in Logan Township. Her stepson gained fame as an etcher under the name Levon West, then pioneered in color-film photography under the name Dmitri.

Several men and one woman from Beadle County have won political honors. R. O. Richards, manager of The Consolidated Land and Irrigation Company, was very active politically and was known as the father of the law governing primary elections. E. T. Cressey became assistant librarian of the U. S. Senate. Will Sterling, one of the West's most brilliant lawyers, was state's attorney in 1886, and U. S. District Attorney in 1889. In the files are several copies of a large volume containing Sterling's addresses and biography. Fred Sterling, brother of Will, became treasurer of Illinois. The Sterling home still stands a few miles north of Huron.

Gladys Pyle was the first woman elected to the legislature of South Dakota, the first woman to be Secretary of State, and the first Republican woman to serve in the U. S. Senate. Her father, John L. Pyle, was Attorney General of South Dakota from 1898 until his death in 1902. Alva Taylor, one of the leading lawyers, who came in 1882, served as Judge in the Circuit Court from 1909 to 1939. Coe I. Crawford served as Governor, as the State's Attorney General, and was general attorney for the Chicago & North Western. He was United State Senator from 1909 until 1915.

Recognition is due to many others such as the farmers who helped

each other in time of need and who have stayed on their land under most trying circumstances. They have given their children faith and courage to fulfil their dreams.

Typical of the pioneer spirit is Cornelia Burnley Garrett, affectionately known throughout the county as "Nelie." One of 17 children born into slavery, she came to Huron as cook for the men who laid the bridge across the Jim in 1880. Her unfailing kindness, not only to people but to maimed chickens as well; her hearty cheerfulness, her rich voice sharing Negro spirituals with one and all have made her a pleasure to know and remember. An integral part of the community, she took care of many of the present-day citizens, including many businessmen when they were children and cooked many a meal for the elite. The affection in which she is held is demonstrated by the generosity of eight businessmen who paid over \$600 back real-estate taxes and arranged for social security for her when she could no longer care for herself. Now in 1961, past 106 years of age, blind, and at Yankton, Nelie still smiles and sings—a true pioneer to the end.

The true story of the starting of our state will never be told for words fail to convey the spirit and sacrifice of the early timers. The tender-footed surrendered their claims, the faint-hearted fled to an easier life, but the real pioneers waited to face whatever came. With faith and steadfastness of purpose they started solid foundations upon which future generations may build and prove themselves worthy of the labor and optimism of their forefathers.

FROM AN OLD DIARY

You like a country or you don't.

Perhaps it's faith and hope that make you like it.

Old Johnson died last night.

He believed to his last breath that this was a good country.

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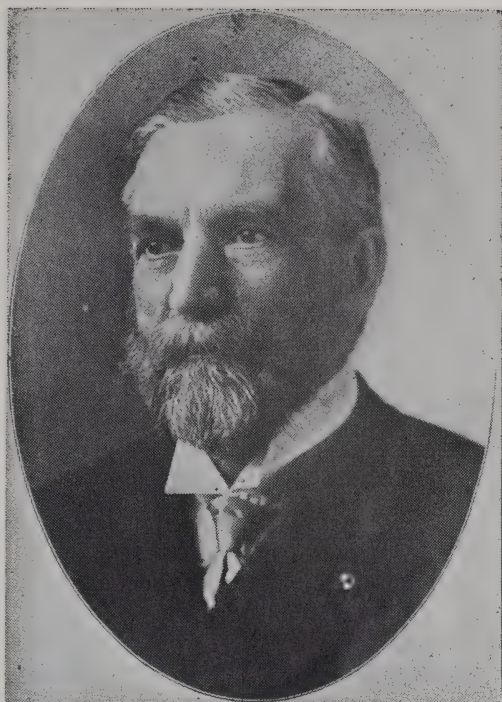
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Wm. H. H. Beadle was Surveyor General from 1869 to 1873. He had a great struggle to get legislation to help the schools and it was through his tireless efforts that sections 16 and 36 in each township were set aside for school purposes until worth \$10 an acre.

SUPPLEMENT

Since many may be interested in the derivation of local place names and may wish to have a record of early settlers in each township, this supplement has been prepared.

As early as 1832, Beadle County was explored by William Dickson. It was surveyed in 1872-1873 under the supervision of Gen. W. H. H. Beadle, surveyor general from 1869 to 1873. People may feel honored to have their county named for such a famous man as General Beadle who was Brigadier General in the Civil War. No statesman ever worked harder for the good of Dakota. He fought continuously for the protection of school lands against trespassers such as those in the large wheat fields of the Red River Valley. Had it not been for him, the school lands would have been sold for almost nothing. He refused bribes and positions with high salaries in order to do what he thought was best for the people. He was known as the father of free schools in the Dakotas since he influenced the government to save the 16th and 36th sections in each township until land was worth \$10 an acre.

Trudeau, an explorer in 1794, named the James River after Father Jacques, an early missionary. The 1861 legislature named it Dakota River and one still finds that name on old maps. Cane Creek was named after John Cain, who had a hard time crossing the stream. There are several stories connected with the naming of Shue Creek. One is that a Belcher girl lost her shoe while hunting. Some think it was formerly called SCREW because of its winding ways. A letter in the Huron library from Nelson Suckow, written April 5, 1937, reports that he and Mr. Belcher were on a hunting trip. Tired and wearing wet shoes, Belcher came back to the stream and asked Suckow to set his shoes by the fire. Suckow forgot them, and the shoes burned. Hence the name "Shue Creek."

Towns, excepting Huron, Cavour, and Iroquois, did not have names at first. Called "sidings," they were placed by the railroad company at convenient places to get water for the engines, usually about ten miles apart. Wolsey was siding number one; Wessington, number two, and so on.

During August, 1879, Marvin Hughitt, vice president and later president of the Chicago & North Western, camped near Huron with a company of surveyors for the railroad, working south to find a suitable place for a bridge. They chose the land where Huron now stands—named, it is thought, after the Huron Indians who belonged to one of the Iroquoian tribes who lived between Lake Huron and Lake Ontario. The word HURON may have come from the French "hure," meaning wild boar, applied to that tribe because of its unkempt appearance, but it is not certain whether it is a French or Indian name.

Descendants of settlers in the country have stayed longer than those in Huron. Over 680 early country families have relatives here while only a few over a hundred of those in Huron have remained. Altoona and Cavour Townships have the largest number. Many of the country settlers lived in Huron after they proved up their claims. They are listed where they first lived.

The Huron settlers who came before 1900 and who still have relatives in the county are as follows: Edward Anderson, John Bates, Bayard Beach, W. H. Bliss, Abram Bloodgood, Charles and Clarence Bonesteel, S. A. Bowe, R. Campbell, Fred Carlson, James and John Connors, Coe I. Crawford, E. T. Cressey, Joseph Daum, M. J. Dinneen, John Doherty, John Ebert, Jake Edler, H. G. Eberhart, Charles Edwards, John Esterberg, Charles and Sidney Ferris, John Fleming, James Foasberg, George Fullinweider, Robert Gibbs, Dan Glennon, James Gillespie, Hugh Griffith, John Hollarbush, Fred Holton, Rev. M. Hoyt, George Huntington, Peter Johnson, I. N. Jones, L. H. Jones, Charles and Will Joy, John Kemerer, Fred Kent, John Kimmel, Gottlieb Klebs, J. C. Klemme, Albert Lampe, Lucian Lapiere, Thomas Lauters, Alfred Mannie, Mathew Markey, W. McCreary, Clarence McIlvaine, Niel McKay, John McMahon, James McWeeny, Louis and John Melum, Mrs. Carrie Meyers, Edward Miles, W. L. Miner, W. N.

Newcomer, Wallace and William Newton, Henry Niestadt, George Ormond, William Oerlline, Clark Osborn, Delaine Oviatt, Joseph Padesky, S. S. and George Parke, Chas. Peterson, John Pyle, Ole Quale, Steven Ramer, William and August Retschlag, Harvey Rice, R. O. Richards, Chauncey Richardson, Frank Roberts, Joe Rother, W. H. Rowe, Dr. Hugh Russell, Dr. F. O. Sale, Charles Sauer, W. Saxton, Jake Schaller, Martin Schoenart, Jim Scott, Howard Sedam, Albert Shaw, H. P. Schields, Dr. J. M. Smith, Monroe Snedigar, C. S. Sprague, Rev. G. Starring, W. Steer, George Sterling, Andrew Stewart, F. N. Stewart, D. W. Stiver, Z. T. Sutley, Dr. R. A. Tait, Will Tait, Alva Taylor, Irvin Thomas, E. M. Thomas, Thomas Thompson, John Thorpe, Robert Timm, L. T. Tisdale, W. Tolmie, Louis Tredway, Henry Van Dalsem, George Vanderstein, Sr., John Walsh, Kirk Wheeler, Ed Wilson, Charles Wurfel, John Johnson, Chas., George and John Longstaff, Peter Nelson, Chas. Merritt, Robert Walker, Ellis Jones and August Ludtka.

Others whom many will recall but who have no relatives here and who have not been mentioned before are the families of Henry Hinkley, state senator in 1896; Della Doney, B. F. Trumbower, M. M. Winter, Charley Koepp, J. E. Baker, A. J. Bick, Milt Alford, C. H. Newcome, A. W. Wilmarth, A. B. Melville, T. N. Null, Al Robinson, Charles Dunlap, Mike Tobin, J. H. Pratt, Charles Kelley, William Link, W. H. Henion, J. M. Blount, J. E. Elson, A. B. Fairbanks, John Fiske, H. S. Mouser, S. A. Nash, and Doctors A. J. Dickinson and J. L. Foxton; also dentists, C. S. Jones and Miles Walton.

The townships are listed alphabetically. Allen Township, organized 1885, was named for Alexander Allen, the first settler. His house minus the tower, built supposedly for watching for Indians, is still standing. Early settlers with relatives here include M. S. Ackles, Mayhew Allen, James Borah, W. Licht, D. A. Minium, Louis Schnetzer, George Uselding, C. H. Verbeck.

Hitchcock was first called Clarkville, started July 1, 1881, by the Western Town Lot Company. Altoona Township was organized in 1884. In 1885, the town was called Altoona for a town in Pennsylvania and later called Hitchcock for Charles who lived nearby. Early families are those of Bengt and Gus Anderson, Hiram Annis, Lorenzo Cook, Dr. J. Crosby, Owen Gee, Charles Giard, Erva Gould, Herman Hilke-meier, Roland Hart, John Hart, John and Henry Kingdon, L. L. Littlefield, Henry Martin, William Martin, James Murphy, James O'Brien, Andrew Olson, James Payne, Charles Phillips, George Poe, Cyrus Potter, Dr. L. A. Potter, Tom Price, Jake Price, Charles Sutter, Charles Swartz, Louis Todnem, Donald G. Urquhart, Levi Van Voorhis, Clarence Van Buskirk, and Silas Wright. Early ministers were the Reverends E. E. Dean, W. Hoadley, and W. J. Hill.

Banner Township, organized 1884 at the home of W. W. Wibert, was named Banner, a name suggested by John Baker since Banner Township had an election before Logan Township. Iroquois, platted in 1880, is a French name for the Indian Confederacy of the six

nations. The word is said to be from "hire," meaning "I have said," and "i-loue-a," a vocable that expresses joy or sorrow according to the rapidity with which it is pronounced. Early-timers included the families of Chris Caspersen, George and Henry Crowell, James Dixon, Wm. Dunlevy, Wm. Gerner, Charles Grannis, Michael Kelly, W. Kuehl, Frank Landon, August Lemke, Sr., John Liddle, Martin Luther, Edward Lynch, Wm. Maas, Sr., Harry Meyer, Tom and Joe Murphy, Wm. Rudy, Peter Schultz, Jacob Schneller, Wallace Smith, Henry Snedigar, Fred Steffin, B. D. Stephans, and Timothy Whalen.

Barrett Township, organized 1884, was named for a settler who left that fall. Early settlers were the families of Levi Anderson, the Birks brothers—Sam, Henry, James, George, and Fred; Charles Campbell, Carl Carlson, Dave Coughlin, John Davenport, L. Denman, G. S. Foote, George Wardel, John Whirlledge, and John Smith.

Belle Prairie Township, organized 1884, was named by S. R. Montague, uncle of Mrs. Peter Schiltz, rural Wolsey. Old settlers were the families of August Dubro, Sr., Harvey and Adam Fenner, Pat Finley, Martin Harmon, Frederick Hein, Ernest Kopplin, Frank Lorenz, John Miller, George Piehl, Charles Rohrabach, Norman Stephans, Oscar Schultner, Frank Sweet, C. S. Sprague, T. Syring, Robert Gilgore, Christ Wolf, and Max Vetterman.

The town of Bonilla was platted 1884 and the township organized the same year and named for General Manuel Bonilla. Old settlers were the families of A. E. Bailey, Ed Baker, Henry Bales, Patrick Case, Irving Cooper, W. French, T. R. Hulbert, Con Huntley, Luke James, Tom, Fred, and Henry Martin, Archie McKichen, Art and John Miller, Steven Morse, Frank O'Brien, Peter Peterson, John Seeley, George Shipman, Elmer Strickland, Dan Williams, Robert Young, Louis Barthelman, and Ed Finicle.

The town of Broadland, platted 1880, and the township, organized 1884, took the name from the contour of the land. First settlers included the families of Joseph Bushfield, Jim Dawson, Phil Gascoigne, L. T. Hook, W. D. Johnson, George Ingalls, John Ketelsen, Samuel McFarline, Daniel Prose, Joseph Sherman, Tim Smith, William Wilson, Andrew Scheidegger, and Edward Edvensen.

Burr Oak Township, organized 1884, was named for the oak trees in the gulches. Early-timers were the families of Gulick Everson, Ole Haugen, A. B. Hutchinson, Edwin G. Kinsman, Robert McNeil, P. P. Myran, Hans Olson, Ole Pederson, Mathias Scofield, and L. W. Surmon.

Carlyle Township, organized 1884, was named for the English poet by Reverend W. Hoadley. Early settlers were the families of Dave Coursey, Peter Hanson, George Haskins, M. J. Lucky, George Oschner, Oscar Peterson, J. H. and H. S. Royer, Thomas Thompson, James, Harry, and Sam Venables, William Walt, and Ole Peterson.

The town of Cavour, platted in 1879 by the Western Town Lot Company, was named for Cariello Benno—Count Cavour, father of

railroads in Italy. Richland Township included the south half of Cavour Township and what was known as Shue Creek Township included the north half. The township was organized and named for the town in 1887. Yale, named for Yale University, was named by Mrs. P. J. Sweeney, whose husband sold the town plot in 1889. Early settlers of the township include the families of Robert Allison, John Arnold, John Blair, Tom Costello, James Daley, Henry De Long, James Duesler, John Dunlevy, Mike Eckhart, James Fernan, Henry Fisher, Aaron French, Steven Gascoigne, Frank Goodrich, John Haigh, Chris Hanson, Gerhardt Kauth, John Kuntz, Ferdinand Maag, Carl and Albert Maass, Sr., Frank Martin, Jule Paye, Michael Musolf, May Rand, John Rudy, William Rossman, John Schultz, George Schmidt, August Sikora, Peter Sweeney, Leo Verhelst, John Wilson, John Wood, Herman Baumhoff, Henry Pautz, and Frank Dollenbacher.

Old settlers in Clyde Township, organized 1884, include the families of James Doyle, H. G. Eggleston, L. E. Goodell, Charles Green, John Gunderson, Dr. A. O. Harvey, Douglas Loomis, B. E. McIlvaine, Harry Palmer, Clarence Rand, I. Thoman, William Titus, and William Tucker.

Custer Township, named for Gen. Custer by John McDonnell, was organized in 1884. Old-timers include the families of James Ayres, Lewis Bloodgood, F. Blume, Henry Cowell, John Dolan, Cyrus Durand, John Frizell, Mathias Gabel, Louis Haffner, Willis Hopper, John Ingle, Charles Lampe, Samuel Lawrence, Henry Leipold, Calvin Loveland, Isaac Manchester, Bill Mead, John and William McCoy, Jerry Montague, Irad Parkhurst, Peter Schiltz, Andrew Schultner, J. M. Stiver, and John Zeller.

Clifton Township, first a part of Pearl Creek Township, was organized in 1884 and probably named for William Clifton, an early settler. Old settlers were the families of Martin, Ed, and Robert Baum, Mathius Bialas, Charles Fater, William Gordon, T. J. Harvey, Arthur Hedland, Martin Issenhuth, E. T. Losey, Milton Lyon, John McWhorter, Charley Miner, O. O. I. Ray, M. V. Robins, Paul Schreck, John Schmitz, Dr. William Steele, Harvey and James Thompson, B. B. Thurston, and John Triplet.

Some say Dearborn Township, organized 1883, was named for the former home of Winfield Van Horne, others say for the oldest man in the vicinity. Virgil, named for the Latin poet, was organized 1883 and incorporated 1884. The first station and sectionhouse built in 1881 were moved to the present site on the former farm of Ed Hebron. Those who came early were the families of Harold Cantonwine, C. A. Dalrymple, William Dennison, William Friese, J. B. Geddis, George, Steve, and Henry Hebron, Alfred, Peter, and Gus Jones, Milton Manwarring and William Swartz.

Fairfield Township, organized 1884, was named for a village in Michigan. Early settlers were the families of John Anderson, Howard Bushfield, Lyman Corbin, James Corcoran, Perry Dahlquist, George Dickinson, George Edler, Jr., W. W. Hamlin, John Hanley, H. Hanson,

W. Heckman, Anton Kretchmer, James McDonough, George McNally, Ole Olson, Peter Olson, Frank and Walter Oviatt, and H. A. Van Buskirk.

Foster Township, organized 1884, was named for Henry Foster, who gave the township record book. Early settlers include the families of Pete Adams, Myron Andrews, Charles Bullock, Roy Davis, Christian Derscheid, Mrs. George Everest, John Feicke, Frank Grentz, James Hand, Samuel Hendrickson, David Kelley, Gerhardt Koster, Charles Kuehl, William Marsh, Anton Meyer, Dan Neiling, Fred Steffin, Thomas and William Tyrrell, Fred Ulrich, John Waddell, and Mike Welsh.

Grant Township, organized 1884, was named for the Josiah Grant family who had the first house in the township. Other settlers were the families of Eli Brockman, Henry Grant, D. T. Knox, Charles Love, William Lyon, Sr., Edward Muraine, William Thompson, and T. V. Wallace.

Hartland Township, organized 1884, was thought to have been named for settlers from Hartland County, Iowa. Old settlers were the families of Ed Allison, James Buell, George Dettmer, Levi Frank, Sam Hartzell, Diedrick Heeren, John Kawalke, George Oerlline, Jay Salisbury, Fred Steurwald, and N. C. Whitney.

Since most of the settlers came from Iowa, they chose that name for their township which was organized in 1884. The first settlers were the families of Frederick Bloom, Ed Cass, George Couch, Henry Daum, Frederick Deeg, Dave Dick, Ramph Diekhoff, William Feige, Jess Gilbert, J. C. Hatfield, J. M. Liebel, Adolph Papin, Charles Raschke, Bernard and Henry Teuber, and Herman Weir.

Kellogg Township, organized 1884, was probably named for W. C. Kellogg. Those who came early were the families of Christ Bader, Nicholas Boos, Marcellus Burney, George Curtis, Sievert Haugen, Bramwell Horsley, Henry Kuehl, Martin Madden, Charles Schickler, John Schaller, and Bill Taylor.

Lake Byron is thought to have been named after Asher Pay's brother Byron who, in 1866, helped to deliver supplies to the Indians. Byron's Indian nickname "Byo" was found carved upon a tree. The township was organized in 1884. First settlers included the families of S. T. and F. J. Berriman, George Gaughran, Joseph Hoy, Ford Nicholl, Albert Piper, Samuel Russell, George Small, and Joseph Walters.

Liberty Township, formerly known as Shue Creek Township, which included the north half of what was later Cavour Township, was organized in 1887. Early settlers were the families of Greenlief Ackerman, Mike Barrett, Sam, Alfred, and Joe Buckley, Joseph B. Davis, Joe Henry Davis, William Davis, Sr., John Ford, Robert Johnson, Will and Alonzo Medbery, Andrew McConnahay, James Newcome, Smith Newcomer, Charles Peek, B. F. Teets, and A. M. Thurston.

Logan Township, organized 1884, was named for Logan, Illinois, according to the report of Taylor Curtis. Old-timers were Roy Abel, John Baker, James Brown, James Condon, George Hall, Perry Hendrickson, John Landon, Thomas Martin, Daniel McCarthy, John Murphy, Leopold Otto, Walter Owens, C. Reinke, Florine Schneller, David Toland, Percy Toovy, and Fayette Squires.

Milford Township, organized 1884, was named for Henry Howell's former home, Milford, Pennsylvania. Early settlers were Frank Bloom, Captain J. P. Davis, Ben Glaze, A. F. Lawrence, Lafe Williams, and Daniel York.

Nance Township, organized 1884, was named for J. D. Nance, one of the directors. Before being organized, it was eight miles square, including two miles in Bonilla and two in Whiteside. Settlers were the families of Ambrose Barnes, Charles Brady, George Brown, David Brown, John Croes, Sr., E. D. Curtis, W. H. Daugherty, Herman Fritzche, Martin Keller, Fenton McNeill, Walter Parkeson, Carl Tipton, and W. W. Wilson.

Charley Miner suggested the name "Pearl" for Pearl Creek, and the township was named after the creek. Those who came early were the families of B. F. Abel, George and Alex Alley, Oscar Bergstrom, Major F. F. B. Coffin, Henry Hein, Louis Hunefeld, William Kister, August Kopplin, Carl Matter, Herman Metter, John Oldenburg, Dick Ramsell, Charles Sargent, Jim Skow, Gus Verch, and Will and Albert Zell.

Pleasant View Township, organized 1884, was named for Pleasant View, Illinois, by some who came from there. Early settlers were the families of William and Joe Bachman, S. Baird, John Blakely, W. H. Bootz, W. Braun, John Dickson, George Edler, Sr., S. French, C. F. Fuller, Conrad Lather, Marland Marshall, Frank Minske, William H. Palmer, Edward Stitt, George Vanderlinder, Leander Wilbur, and Will Wurfel.

Richland Township, organized 1888, probably took its name from a place in Wisconsin or Illinois. The first settlers were the families of Frank Arnold, John Baker, Frank Baye, Gustave Boetel, August Clarambeau, Burton Culver, Joseph Curtis, Henry Dannenbrock, Xavier, Joe, and John DeBauche, Pat Costello, Joseph Delvaux, Ernest Engebus, Ed Farrell, Ed Fernan, Ezra Fuller, Chris Johnson, Henry Meyer, John Rudy, Anthony Sunderman, and Enoch Tuttle.

First families in Sand Creek Township, organized in 1883, included L. Hurd, C. W. Johnson, August Liebnow, J. D. McNair, Eli McNiell, Charles Pritz, Amos Radcliffe, William Roberts, Luke Robinson, Frank Sexton, John Stobbs, and August Boldt.

Theresa Township, formerly part of Huron Township, was organized in 1887. Early settlers were the families of James Bagby, George and Simon Brandmire, George Hinds, Jacob Kurtz, C. C. McEwen, Mike Morrissey, John Nelson, Henry Schaller, Gustaf Schultz, Jacob

Schuyler, Richard Tobin, George Young, and Captain John Vanderburg.

Valley Township, first part of Huron Township, was organized in 1888. The first families were those of A. J. and E. T. Burger, R. W. Clarke, George Kelsey, Jacob Kouf, Hiram Loomis, E. C. Lyman, Charles May, Carl Medigar, Carl Uecher, and David Welty.

Vernon Township, organized in 1884, may have been named for Vernon, Iowa. Those who came early were the families of George Bartie, Henry Bolte, John Graham, Frederick Horn, Albert Oestrich, O. E. Payson, G. W. Shoemaker, Fred Schultz, G. E. Wellington, John Writner, and Wm. Boldt.

The town of Wessington was platted in 1882, and the township organized in 1887. The town was incorporated in 1905. Some think the name came from an early trapper who was murdered by the Indians in the Wessington Hills. Early settlers were the families of H. H. Alger, N. B. Alger, H. H. Farrington, Benjamin Franklyn, E. J. Granberg, Levi Hulbert, Warren Hurst, H. C. Hutchinson, Martin Kamenz, Samuel and M. J. Martin, J. J. McNeil, Dr. J. A. Milburn, Joseph Palt, John Schollian, Matthew Stobbs, Veed Sweet, Ed Tucker, E. H. Vance, Theadore Vineskie, and Harry Ward.

Whiteside Township, organized 1884, was named for Whiteside County, Illinois, former home of several first settlers. Early settlers were the families of Daniel Dake, H. De Motte, Lemuel Hixson, Michael Joyce, Walter Lloyd, John Paulsen, John Peterson, Peter Scheibe, G. P. Scotchbrook, and W. White.

The town of Wolsey, named for Cardinal Wolsey, was platted in 1883 and the township organized in 1884. Early settlers were the families of John Allison, Ole Anderson, John Bartel, J. J. Burrows, Julius Carson, Al and Robert Chenowith, John and Rev. Ottmar Cloeter, John Cogswell, August Fisher, Otto Gose, W. Jungemann, Jones Kimes, Henry Kohlmeyer, Cris Klicker, Ernest Kutchbach, Dr. Lockwood, Peter Meyer, Rev. J. Neumann, Henry Newton, August Stegeman, R. D., Dan, and Grant Whorton; and Ezra, Frank, and John Snyder, Ernest Witthoeft, and Asbury Hudson.



